PITTSBURGH SYNOD CONGREGATIONAL HISTORIES

By ERNEST G. HEISSENBUTTEL

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History of The Pittsburgh Synod

Volume 1

Pittsburgh Synod Congregational Histories

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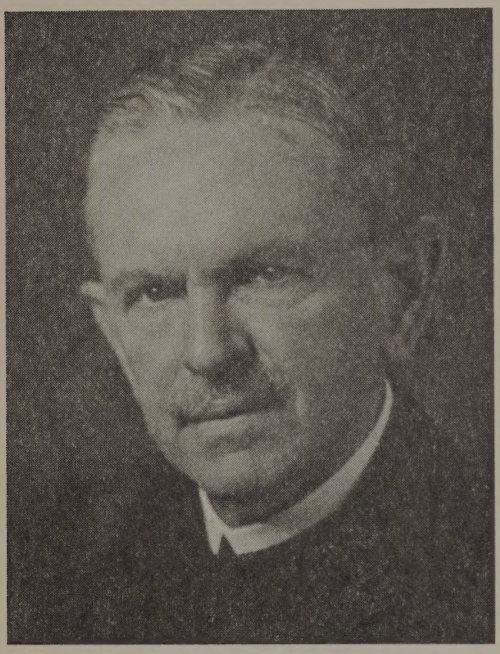

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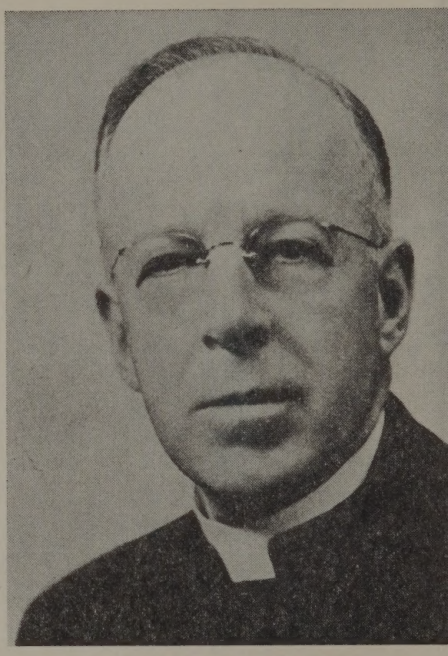

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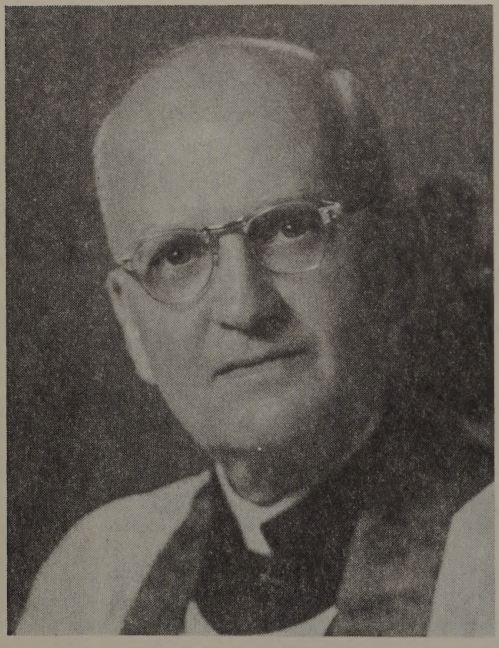

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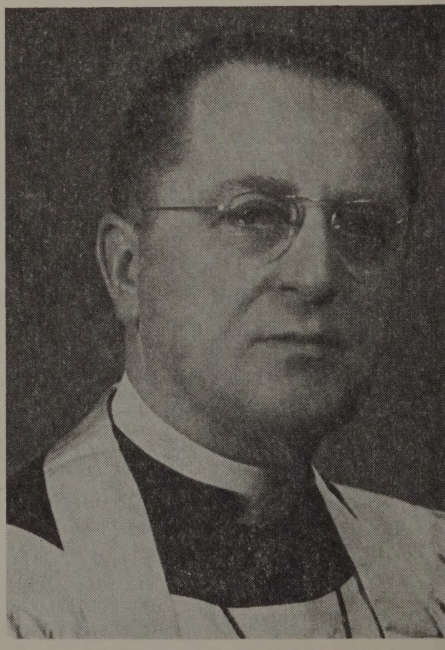

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1950 - —

Pittsburgh Synod Congregational Histories

by

Ernest G. Heissenbuttel

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PREFACE

AT the 1952 Convention of the Pittsburgh Synod the Executive Committee suggested that a study be made regarding the office of a Synod Historian. Accordingly, five recommendations were presented to the 1953 Convention of Synod meeting that year in Washington, Pennsylvania.

These recommendations were:

1. That the Executive Committee be authorized to appoint a competent editor to head up the project of writing an up-to-date history of the Synod.
2. That the editor appointed serve as chairman of an editorial committee of five to be appointed by the Executive Committee who will have full charge of composing the history.
3. That the President and Secretary of Evangelism and Stewardship be ex-officio members of the editorial committee.
4. That the project be actively launched in 1954 and completed, if possible, by 1960.
5. That sufficient funds be allocated for the project from the Budget of Synod.

As a result of this action a committee on the synodical history was appointed as follows: Dr. G. Lawrence Himmelman, Dr. Edward K. Rogers, Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, Dr. Paul W. O. Heist, Dr. William Armour Logan, Dr. Roy H. Johnson, and Professor Ernest G. Heissenbuttel. Since the convener of the committee was not specifically designated, no meeting took place until May 10, 1955. On this day all the members of the committee, except Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, met in a seminar room in Langenheim Memorial Library at Thiel College. The committee had the help of Parker Worley, College Librarian.

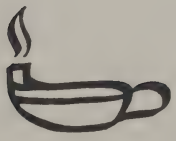
This committee named Roy H. Johnson and Ernest G. Heissenbuttel as co-editors of the proposed history of synod and its congregations. The project divided itself naturally into two parts: the history of the synod and its institutions and the histories of the congregations that made up the synod.

Since there were more than three hundred congregations in the synod, it was necessary that a separate volume set forth these histories. In the

interest of uniformity and efficiency this volume had to be the work of one editor rather than two as was originally proposed. For this reason the work of the present volume is the work of Ernest G. Heissenbuttel.

The History of Synod and its Institutions will comprise a smaller second volume. This work has been divided as follows: Professor Heissenbuttel will write the chapters dealing with the early church in western Pennsylvania, the founding of the synod, the early years of synod activity, the break between the General Council and General Synod, the General Synod organization from 1867 to the creation of the United Lutheran Church in 1918, and the organizations of synod other than Thiel College. Professor Johnson will deal with the General Council organization from 1867 to 1918, the United Lutheran Church activity from 1918 to the present, and the history of Thiel College. The second volume at present writing is in part ready for press. Work should be completed before the 1960 deadline set by the proposals of 1953.

ERNEST G. HEISSENBUTTEL, 1959



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INTRODUCTION

THIS volume contains three hundred and five congregational histories. Two of these are non-synodical, though associated with the work of the synod. In addition one preaching point (Ligonier, St. Paul's) is listed in the table of contents. There are two hundred and thirty seven pastoral charges. The oldest congregation has a history going back to 1772; four congregations were organized in the fall of 1957. Some of the three hundred and five congregations have had simple and somewhat uneventful histories; others have had histories full of drama and incident.

Because of the many differences in congregational histories, it has been impossible to devise a completely uniform pattern that could be followed in telling the histories of all these congregations. A church, for example, such as Trinity in Freeport, is the result of a union of three churches, while still other congregations created the foundations for some of these three. Most other congregations have a single narrative thread running from beginning to end.

Age is not the only factor that gives history to a church. Some of the older churches, it must be confessed, have not been too active through their many years of existence. Population movements have left many of these older churches with little but history. These congregations have had numerous changes in pastorates, have built and repaired their buildings and so kept the even tenor of their way. On the other hand there are churches like Holy Trinity in Greenville. It was not founded until 1865, but two years after her founding there took place in that church building an event of far reaching historical significance: the split between the General Council and the General Synod churches. Other events of similar importance give to this particular congregation a history rich in significance.

In some cases the history could be best told in terms of pastorates. In many instances, however, this was not the case. Some churches had such a succession of pastors that the rapid turnover in leadership was responsible for an absence of accomplishment. It will also be observed that many pastorates, during the period of the depression, failed to mark any material advance that could be recorded as factual history.

The procedure followed by the editor in preparing this volume was as follows: If a congregation had a history recorded in Ellis B. Burgess's Memorial History of the Pittsburgh Synod (1925), that history was sent to the pastor with the request that he use it as a starting point in preparing a new history. He could re-write the history completely or add what history had taken place in the past thirty three years. It was not recommended that the Burgess' material be used; this was merely forwarded to the pastor as a starting point for a new history.

The editor received from the pastors of the synod materials in various forms. In some instances the pastor merely added the names of subsequent pastors. The Burgess' material was returned with no change. When this happened the editor cut and modified the material as best he could. In no instance was the material left entirely unchanged. It will be observed, for example, that Dr. Burgess did practically no paragraphing which left the reader with a very formidable page of solid print.

In a work of this kind it is quite evident that uniformity of quality is unattainable. Some pastors worked diligently to prepare an entirely new account of their con-

gregation's history; others did little to make the work of the editor easier. Needless to say much more work went into some congregations than others. Some were presented in lengthy form and had to be totally re-written. On the other hand there were histories so judiciously written from the point of view of form and length that little had to be done. In most instances the material was provided by the pastor; in some few instances the work was turned over to a capable layman who was more familiar with the history of his church than was the minister himself.

Length had to be a consideration in these histories. No uniformity, however, could be attempted. Should the more than three hundred congregations come within the compass of a book approximating five hundred pages, it was obvious that the average length would have to be under two pages. This flexible principle was the only one kept in mind. Some histories go well over this average while others are well under it.

Since the publication of Burgess's History in 1925, forty six new congregations have been organized within the synod and still continue their existence. However, there are other additions to the synod besides newly organized congregations. St. John's in Dravosburg, for example, was in existence long before 1925, but it was then associated with another synodical body. In all these instances, of course, there had to be a fresh start.

It is interesting to note that of all the congregations developed since the beginning of 1925 fourteen are in the Central Conference, twelve in the Erie Conference, nine in the West Conference, five in the East Conference, and five in the Greensburg Conference. The North East Conference has had only one: St. John's in Warren, organized in 1957. Other than this Warren congregation, no church has been organized in the North East Conference since Grace, Clarion in 1890.

One comes away from a task such as this with mixed feelings. It becomes more and more apparent that the real history of a church cannot be written. It is, after all, not the buying of land, the building of an edifice, repairing the structure, paying mortgages, dedicating an organ, or vesting a choir that is the real and significant history of a church. Who can record the work of the spirit as expressed in souls refreshed and strengthened week by week? Who can record the effectiveness of the ministry of the Gospel even during periods when no buildings are built, no debts paid, no celebrations marked?

There is nothing of this in these pages. They, of necessity, must be recorded in another book of a different kind. This is not a pretentious book; it merely records the outward events that took place in temples built with hands. It is the record of corporate bodies building and rebuilding through the years, taking note of the milestones as they pass, and observing the changes in customs which the years bring with them.

ERNEST G. HEISSENBUTTEL

Aliquippa House of Prayer 1875

(See Plate 1)

WHEN Christ Lutheran Church in Baden was established by W. A. Passavant in 1858, people from the village of Logstown crossed the Ohio River in boats to attend services. Some years later when the pastor proposed that a church be built in Logstown he was met with a favorable response. A half acre of ground was bought, and the cornerstone of a frame church was laid by Dr. Passavant on October 31, 1875. Before completion of the building a Sunday School of 70 children was gathered.

Early records of the congregation were kept in the Baden Church Book. The pastor wrote in effect: afternoon services will be held and organization of the church will be left to Divine Providence. The name House of Prayer was evidently given by Dr. Passavant. Like others established by Dr. Passavant, this was an English speaking community church.

The congregation was organized by W. A. Passavant, Jr. 1881 with "some thirty members" and made part of the Baden Parish. However, when R. Morris Smith entered the parish in 1887 interest was at such a low ebb that he could report only 12 members at Logstown. With his resignation on October 23, 1892 the ties with Baden Parish were broken.

Middle Conference of the Pittsburgh Synod, General Council, asked F. W. Kohler to add Logstown to his New Brighton charge. This pastor reported that he could find "no records, no constitution, no organization, only a debt of $450", when he took charge on November 6, 1892. By August 27, 1893 he had secured the records from Baden and effected an organization. During 1894 the church made rapid progress; attendance doubled. But a quarrel began during the Christmas program and spread through the neighborhood. In 1896 community and church relations were further strained by a violent quarrel between two deacons after a service in the church. In 1894 synodical action had constituted House of Prayer and Redeemer, Monaca, as a mission parish. But it was not until 1896 that a pastor could be secured to relieve Pastor Kohler.

From December 1, 1896 until November 30, 1901 the Rev. C. L. Holloway served the Monaca-Logstown Mission. Because of the dissension in the congregation and the pastor's poor health little progress could be recorded. By this time there were 57 names on the church roll. The building had fallen into disrepair, but it was now given a new roof and reconditioned.

The Rev. R. G. Rosenbaum entered the parish on May 1, 1902. He found a restive congregation in Logstown. Because of opposition in House of Prayer he resigned after eight months, but he continued as pastor at Monaca. Early in 1903 the congregation was again included in a parish with Trinity, New Brighton, this time under the leadership of the Rev. G. W. Critchlow. Membership had dwindled to 25. During the next three years conditions did not improve.

With the coming of Dr. D. L. Roth on October 21, 1906 and the establishment of the Jones and Laughlin steel mill in the neighborhood about the same time the congregation entered a new era. Dr. Roth served the congregation in connection with Grace Church, South Side, Pittsburgh. This involved a railroad trip of about 30 miles on Sunday afternoons. His first service was attended by 12 persons.

The church was finally incorporated in 1907. By early 1910 the new town of Woodlawn was growing rapidly several miles to the south. The old Logstown settlement was taken over by immigrants of Roman and Orthodox faith. It was resolved to sell the church and secure a new location. Partial canvass of Woodlawn revealed over 100 Lutherans desiring the establishment of a church in the new community.

But the old property still had a debt of $500, including $105 borrowed from the Board of Deaconesses to pay for the ground in 1875 and never repaid. Debts were paid and the property sold on April 6, 1910 for $6,500. Services were held in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, in private homes, and in the old school until the new church was completed.

On August 28, 1910 Dr. Roth resigned to permit the congregation to call a resident pastor. The Rev. Charles E. Rudy arrived on October 2 and left on November 30, 1910. On the latter day Dr. Roth was recalled as pastor.

In May, 1911 the Woodlawn Land Company donated a lot on the corner of Sheffield and Locust Streets. Another lot was bought for $400. The new building, for which the cornerstone was laid May 19, 1912, was of excellent Gothic design and built of red brick. The cost was $12,000; there were 29 members! The lot lay so high above the street that the only entrance was at the head of a steep stairway of 39 steps.

First service in the new church was on December 29, 1912 with 40 present. On January 12 Dr. Roth again presented his resignation so that a full time pastor could be secured. Again, none was available. R. G. Rosenbaum, now Superintendent of Missions, took charge. He supplied, or provided supplies, for nearly two years. On April 27, 1913 the church was dedicated with Dr. C. J. Gongaware, President of Synod, preaching the sermon. The debt was $5,200.

Since October 1, 1914, when the Rev. Charles E. Schweikert entered the field, House of Prayer has had it own pastor. At the close of this five year pastorate on January 1, 1920 there were 47 communing members.

At the beginning of the ministry of Charles M. Teufel a parsonage was purchased on Orchard Street, just one block from the church, for $6,500. This parsonage has continued in use until this writing. During the four year pastorate, from September 1, 1920 to December 1, 1924, House of Prayer developed more rapidly than in any previous period. Much of the hardy spirit characterizing this congregation developed at this time. Communing membership at the close of the pastorate was 171.

The Rev. Carl I. Empson became pastor on April 15, 1925. The following year the loan from the Mission Board was paid and the Golden Jubilee was celebrated September 17, 1926. It was first realized at this time that the location of House of Prayer on Sheffield Avenue had to be considered temporary. Most of the membership had already left the narrow valley for the new sections of the borough two or more miles from the church. The cooperation of the Mission Board was secured and consideration was given to the purchase of a new site in the New Sheffield area. At about the same time the villages around the Jones and Laughlin plant merged with Woodlawn to form the Borough of Aliquippa. The congregation could not be persuaded to purchase a new site. Pastor Empson resigned effective December 15, 1927.

In the pastorate of the Rev. Edward L. Wagner, beginning June 10, 1928, the congregation became self-sustaining. An agreement was made with the Board of Missions to conduct a branch Sunday School in the New Sheffield district. On July 14, 1929, the Mission Chapel was opened. This chapel was the means of reaching many children of the area. Some of these were confirmed in House of Prayer and have continued as active members of the congregation. It was hoped that this work would provide a gradual transition of the life of the congregation to the new location. But activities at the chapel were discontinued during the pastorate of P. H. R. Mullen in 1950 and the building was sold sometime later. While Pastor Wagner served the congregation, Aliquippa was crippled by the depression as were most other mill towns in the Ohio Valley. The congregation managed to survive despite heavy losses. After five difficult years the pastor resigned effective November 15, 1933.

The longest stay in the congregation's history was that of Harman F. Miller. It began January 15, 1934 and ended June 24, 1945, a period of over ten years. A Hammond organ was purchased in 1937. Extensive repairs were made to all the buildings. Close contacts were kept with the young people in the armed forces. A son of the parish, Frank Morton, was ordained to the Lutheran ministry in 1941. Under the leadership of Pastor Miller many of the children of the later immigrants joined the congregation. A total of 378 new members were received from 1934 to 1945. Integrating the new people was somewhat less successful and the pastorate closed with a communing membership of 218.

The Rev. P. H. R. Mullen, D. D., retired as Superintendent of Missions of the Synod in 1945, became pastor at Aliquippa on October 7 of that same year. Under his experienced and mellow ministry the spiritual growth of the congregation was marked. The percentage of the members of the church communing increased steadily from 40 to 60. In the seven years of this ministry 214 new members were received. Because of ill health Dr. Mullen resigned on August 1, 1952, and died several months later.

Despite evidences of growth reported since 1926 the situation of the parish was becoming more dangerous. The members and prospective members had left the immediate community as they had forty years before at Logstown. Attendance had remained stationary. Despite wartime prosperity church finances steadily declined. Something had to be done.

The Synodical Board of Missions presented the alternative of relocating the New Sheffield district or a new mission would be established in that area. This time, almost thirty years after it was first proposed, the congregation responded quickly. A site with 280 feet of frontage on Irwin Street was purchased for $18,000.

On August 3, 1952 the Rev. Paul M. Ruff became pastor. In the next two years the congregation was completely reorganized. Along with the challenge of the relocation a new spirit of evangelism and stewardship took hold of the people. The new church site was quickly paid and additional lots purchased so that now the congregation owns an entire block on Irwin Street with a frontage of 400 feet. In 1953 a second morning church service was added with the result that attendances increased from 120 to 260 averages. Communing membership of the parish increased from 280 to 500 in four years. A large part of this increase is the result of the restoration of former members considered as lost over the years. A still larger part consists of people of non-Lutheran background who are becoming vigorous Lutherans.

In cooperation with the Synodical and United Lutheran Mission Boards a building program was undertaken in 1954. Plans were prepared by Martsolf and Associates, of New Brighton. On March 25, 1956 ground was broken for a new church and the cornerstone laid on June 17. The contract was let for $168,000. Over $100,000 has been raised by the congregation.

With a new stone church designed to seat over 300 in the heart of a growing industrial community, and with a vigorous congregation, 93% of whom are communicants, alert to the call of Christ to evangelism and stewardship, House of Prayer looks forward to a bright future.

List of pastors: W. A. Passavant, Sr., 1875-1879; W. A. Passavant, Jr., 1879-1885; R. M. Smith, 1887-1892; F. W. Kohler, 1892-1896; C. L. Holloway, 1896-1901; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1902-1903; G. W. Critchlow, 1903-1906; D. L. Roth, 1906-1910; C. E. Rudy, 1910; D. L. Roth, 1910-1913 — Supplies, 1913-1914; C. E. Schweikert, 1914-1920; C. M. Teufel, 1920-1924; C. I. Empson, 1925-1927; E. L. Wagner, 1928-1933; H. F. Miller, 1934-1945; P. H. R. Mullen, 1945-1952; P. M. Ruff, 1952 —.

Ambridge Zion's First 1904

AMBRIDGE was founded in 1903, when the American Bridge Company erected a great plant along the Ohio River, midway between Fair Oaks and Economy. In the fall of the same year Pastor Paul Kummer began to call upon Lutheran families of the new town, with a view to interesting them in the establishment of a church. A list of 74 Lutherans was secured in a few months. A Missouri Synod pastor from Freedom also entered the field, and rented the only available place of worship in the town. Pastor Kummer called an informal meeting at the home of J. F. Jessen, April 25, 1904, when it was decided to organize. This organization was effected, May 2, 1904, when a committee on constitution and charter was appointed. The charter was secured and the church admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod in 1904.

The Missouri Synod discontinued services, June 2, 1904, and Zion's Sunday School moved into the Bank Hall. The first regular church service was conducted by Pastor Kummer, May 9, 1904, when 25 persons were present. The American Bridge Company agreed to donate $500 to any congregation that would build a church and place the same under roof before January 1, 1905, provided the cost was twice that of the lots on which it was built. Pastor Kummer accepted the offer on his own responsibility, and made a payment of $100 on one of the two remaining lots on Park Road between Seventh and Eighth streets, with the understanding that the second lot would be donated by the company. The cornerstone of their church was laid October 9, 1904, and the building dedicated by Pastor Kummer, March 26, 1905. The dedicatory sermon was preached in German by Rev. J. C. C. Scheer. English services were held in the evening of dedication day. The church was built of brick and cement blocks at a cost of $5,250.

Inasmuch as many of the members of Zion were paying for their new homes at the time, the remaining debt was not paid for several years. During the pastorate of Rev. John I. Shaud, 1909-1915, a larger church site on the corner of Maplewood and Eighth streets was secured, and the membership was also greatly increased. During the pastorate of Rev. H. D. Whitteker, 1917-1921, property adjoining the church was bought for $7,760. On the property were a cottage and a frame house, and the latter was renovated at a cost of $1,000 for the parsonage.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Fetterly that the Building Fund for a new church plant was started. The gathering of funds for a new church building was continued under Pastor Stahlman. During the pastorate of the Rev. Fredercik B. Haer a new parsonage was built at a cost of $19,000. On March 16, 1952, ground-breaking services were held for the basement unit of the new church. During the pastorate of the Rev. Raymond E. Agnew this basement unit was completed and dedicated on May 3, 1953. To complete this unit it was necessary to borrow $13,000. This was repaid in full and a mortgage burning service was held on Sunday, May 23, 1954. The congregation also celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary on Sunday, May 2, 1954. The congregation now turned its attention to the completion of the church. A new Building Fund was started, which at the present time (April 1956) contains $25,000 in cash. The plans and specifications for the new building are in the hands of the Architect, Mr. Arthur Martsolf. They will be released for bids in the near future.

The following pastors have served here: Paul Kummer, 1904-1905; J. A. Frischkorn, 1906-1909; J. I. Shaud, 1909-1915; W. M. Weaver, 1915-1916; H. D. Whitteker, 1917-1921; Bernard Fetterly, 1921-1931; Charles F. Stahlman, 1932-1947; Frederick B. Haer, 1948-1952; Raymond E. Agnew, 1953 —.

Apollo First 1859

(See Plate 2)

"APOLLO is one of the oldest towns in this section of the state, having been laid out in 1816 and incorporated as a borough in 1848. For many years the chief industry of the town was the manufacture of high grades of sheet iron; first by the old Kiskiminetas Iron Company, which developed by easy stages into the Rogers and Birchfield Mills, then Laufman and McElroy, then the Volta Iron Works, and finally the Apollo Iron and Steel Company, which in 1901 was absorbed by the American Sheet Steel Company, and the Apollo Mills consolidated with the Vandergrift plant, situated one mile farther down the river." The mill continued to be the industrial center of the community until the days following the second world war when, because of obsolete equipment, it was forced to yield to new processes in the steel industry; then production ceased. In 1955 a newly organized Apollo Steel Company cleared the buildings of the old machinery and opened a steel fabricating shop.

In the vicinity of Apollo are found some of the oldest Lutheran churches in Western Pennsylvania, and members of these churches have lived in Apollo since its settlement. However, no attempt was made to organize a Lutheran congregation in the town until November of 1858, when a number of persons sent a petition to the Middle Conference of the Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, then meeting in Butler, Pa., requesting that they be given a regular pastor. The Rev. A. C. Ehrenfeld responded to their call, and on March 19, 1859, the "First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Apollo" was organized.

After several weeks, Pastor Ehrenfeld gave the care of the church over to Pastor L. M. Kuhns, Pastor of Hebron Church, Leechburg, who supplied the Apollo congregation for one year. At first the Seceder Church was used for worship, but in 1863 a frame church building was dedicated for the use of the congregation by Pastor John A. Delo.

During the ministry of Pastor Delo the congregation was united with the congregations at Springs Church and Maysville in one Parish. This parish relationship continued until 1890, when the Rev. M. L. Culler, D. D. was called to serve only the Apollo congregation. However, the pastor in Apollo continued to supply the Springs Church congregation until 1946, when that church was united with a newly-organized congregation in Oklahoma borough to form the Springs Church Parish.

The name of the Apollo church does not appear on the records of the Pittsburgh Synod until 1861, when 35 communicants were reported. Though the church regarded itself as a member of the Synod from the beginning of its life, it was never formally received into the Synod. During the Synodical controversy in 1867 it formally withdrew from membership, and remained independent until after the organization of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod, when it united with that body.

The growth of the congregation is reflected in the recurring necessity for improvement and extension of its property. In 1887, the original church was remodelled at a cost of $1,870.00. When the town of Vandergrift was established in 1897, about seventy members of the Apollo church united with the First Church, Vandergrift, at its organization, yet a continuing zeal and devotion on the part of the Apollo people made further enlargement of their church building necessary, which work was completed in 1909. In 1924 it became evident that expansion must continue, and a more advantageous site was purchased, on which was erected a fine Gothic structure at a cost of $187,000.00. This beautiful church was dedicated by

the Rev. M. L. Clare, D. D., in 1926. In 1952 a matching stone Parsonage was built adjacent to the church building.

At the present time there are nine hundred confirmed members of the church, who maintain its ministry in the Apollo area and give staunch support to the work of the Pittsburgh Synod and the United Lutheran Church in America.

The following pastors have served this congregation: A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1859; L. M. Kuhns, 1859-1860; J. A. Delo, 1860-1864; John Welfley, 1864-1868; Michael Colver, 1868-1876; G. F. Schaeffer, 1876-1882; C. B. King, 1883-1890; M. L. Culler, D. D., 1890-1897; W. H. Nicholas, 1897-1902; M. E. McLinn, 1903-1910; H. E. Berkey, 1910-1914; M. L. Clare, D. D., 1914-1945; Robert E. Wolff (assistant), 1940-1942; William C. Hankey, 1945 —.

Arnold Calvary 1922

BECAUSE of easy access to the churches of New Kensington, the town of Arnold was churchless for a number of years, even though the population had increased to 4000. Lutherans were first in remedying this situation by sending student E. P. Windman into the community in the summer of 1922. His first public service was held in the High School in August of that year, and was attended by twenty people.

When Mr. Windman returned to the seminary, his place was taken by the Rev. A. J. Bean, who pressed the work so successfully, that the missionary superintendent, the Rev. J. Elmer Bittle, was able to organize the congregation. The constitution was adopted, and the church was formally organized as Calvary Lutheran Church on November 12, 1922, with fifty members. The charter list was kept open until April 1, 1923, when it numbered seventy-six. The Sunday School was organized December 3, 1922, with G. P. Karle as the first superintendent. Pastor Bean served the mission until February 25, 1923, when the congregation extended a call to the Rev. L. M. Keller to become its first regular Pastor.

On July 29, 1923, authority was granted to erect a temporary church building in which to hold services. By the help of the Church Property and Loan Fund of the Pittsburgh Synod, a good building site 90 ft. x 120 ft. was secured at a cost of $3,500. On this site, a temporary chapel of rough boards was erected as a place of worship until the permanent church could be completed. The services of the Rev. Haworth of Baden, Pa., were engaged, and he presented plans for the present church. The first service was held in the Little Chapel on October 7, 1923. There were ninety-three present. On August 19, 1923, the congregation approved the plans for the present church building and authorized the church council to proceed with an $18,000 building program. The excavation work was begun on September 24, and on November 11, the cornerstone was laid. The completed church building was dedicated May 25, 1924. The church was built of red brick and has the distinction of possessing the only aluminum roof in the valley.

In the years that followed, the congregation grew, rendered efficient and effective services to the community. The congregation purchased its first parsonage on December 11, 1927. This building served as the parsonage until 1956, when it was sold and a new parsonage was built.

It was a happy occasion when the congregation celebrated its Silver Anniversary and was able to burn its note of indebtedness. As the congregation grew, it soon became evident that better and more adequate educational facilities were

needed. A study committee was appointed and on April 10, 1955, the congregation authorized a building committee to proceed with the building of an educational and recreational unit and parsonage. Ground was broken on June 26, 1955, at which time, the Rev. Paul Daugherty, D. D., mission superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, spoke. The temporary chapel, which was the first church home of the congregation and, which was in use as the children's chapel, was officially closed and razed on August 1, 1955. This erased a familiar land mark in the community and broke the visible tie of the congregation with the past. On October 9, 1956, the cornerstone was laid for the parish house and parsonage, with the Rev. Edward K. Rogers, D. D., Evangelism and Stewardship Secretary of the Pittsburgh Synod, delivering the sermon. The building, which cost $60,000 and included a 100 ft. x 35 ft. parish hall with a modern kitchen, rest rooms, provisions for 10 class rooms divided by folding doors, a nursery room 20 ft. x 15 ft., and a red brick 7 room parsonage was dedicated by the pastor, Rev. Harry E. Vensel, with the president of the synod, the Rev. G. Lawrence Himmelman, D. D., delivering the dedicatory sermon on April 8, 1956. The congregation is grateful for its material achievements and looks forward to serving as a witness in the community to God.

In the thirty-five years of its existence, the congregation has been served by seven pastors: Lloyd M. Keller, 1923-1930; Paul J. Trout, 1930-1934; J. Bender Miller, 1934-1939; William C. Hankey, 1940-1942; Donald R. Poole, 1942-1945; Elwood G. Hoffman, 1946-1953; Harry E. Vensel, 1953-1957; Earl D. Strawn, 1958 —.

Arona St. Mark's 1901

FOR several years before a church was built in this mining town of Arona services were held by pastors of neighboring Lutheran churches. Pastor George S. Seaman effected an organization in 1895, but this was not permanent. The first meeting held for the purpose of erecting a community church was held in 1900. The building committee consisted of Reformed and Lutherans. The cornerstone of this church was laid July 8, 1900, and the building was dedicated February 15, 1901. The church was built of brick and stone, 35 x 50, at a cost of $3,000. Andrew Carnegie presented the organ. The congregation itself was organized March 8, 1901.

The greater part of the members were Lutheran, but a number were Reformed, while still others had never been churched. The large number of Millers in the charter membership came from the neighboring Luthern valley called Miller's Thal. According to the testimony of O. P. Siegfried, there was sharp division of sentiment on the question of a constitution which resulted in the withdrawal of the General Council pastor and the calling of Rev. C. L. Streamer. Their permanent constitution was adopted March 9, 1902 after which the congregation was admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod and made part of the Hempfield Parish.

Through the years the membership of the church has not been large. In 1957 the communing membership was 138 while the confirmed membership was 198.

Through the years this church was connected with the Hempfield Zion church. When, in 1955, however, Old Zion and Hempfield Zion merged, a new parish was formed consisting of St. Paul's that had been associated with Harrold-Seanor and St. Mark's that had been served by the Hempfield pastor.

The new alignment was effected and Donald G. Cochran was called in 1956 subject to ordination.

Arona St. Paul's 1812

THIS church is located on the Southern edge of the German settlement of Hempfield Township. Many families of this great settlement located in the vicinity of Harrold's in the Spring of 1769, and less than ten years later men were clearing land in the neighborhood of Seanor's. It is known that a definite settlement was organized by 1780, but families may have lived there even earlier.

Like the people of Denmark Manor on the northern fringe of the settlement, they built a log schoolhouse for the convenience of the children, but were satisfied to walk five miles to attend church. Tradition tells how the German mothers would walk all the way to the Harrold's church with the children in their arms as the families continued to worship regularly, especially that they might not miss the sacrament of the altar.

When they built their first log church in the Seanor settlement is not clear, but it is certain that it was in use in 1812. This points also to the fact that there must have been some kind of church organization there at that time. Ulery's *History of the Southern Conference* reveals that "Henry Snyder donated a lot as a site for a church, also a half-acre to be used as a graveyard; but there is a courthouse record and a deed, stating that Henry Snyder conveyed to Michael Mathias, William Shumaker and Solomon Wagner, trustees of St. Paul's Church, a certain plot of ground containing one acre and 37 perches, for a certain consideration, to be used as a burial ground. Later some ground was purchased for the enlargement of the graveyard, for which a deed was executed to said trustees. In the survey of this purchase, reference is made to the meeting house, as the church is called, which is evidence that the church was in existence before the purchase was made.

"There have been three churches built by the St. Paul's congregation, including the present church. The first was a log church, built like the other log churches to which reference has been made. It was hewn of rough logs, and was a two-story church with a high pulpit and gallery, but primitive in all its appointments. It had a better floor and better seats than the first log churches; otherwise it was just like them. It stood, however, much longer than most of the log churches in this country, except the one at Hill's and Youngstown. It was replaced by a new church in 1837, which was a plain brick building, about 35 x 35 feet in size, costing perhaps about $2,000. It was completed and dedicated in the latter part of 1837."

The third church was built in 1875 during the pastorate of Rev. Jacob Singer. The cornerstone of this church was laid June 12, 1875 and the dedication took place October 10, 1875. This was a good brick church, 38 x 58, Corinthian in style and cost $4,000, and represented a joint undertaking with the Reformed Congregation. During the first 18 years the congregation made little progress. Rev. John Steck recorded 31 communicants at the beginning and the same number at the close of his pastorate. Rev. Michael J. Steck had greater success in building up the congregational roll, which increased to 132 members in this 18 years pastorate. During the time of the Stecks, the congregation was a part of the Greensburg Parish. From 1848 to 1872 it was connected with West Newton and Hoffman's; from 1872 to 1877 it formed a parish with Hoffman's; from 1877 to 1881 it was served by the Brush Creek pastor; from 1882 to 1885 it was an independent parish; from 1885 to 1887 it was served again by the pastor of Brush Creek; and since 1887 until 1955, it was a part of the Harrold-Seanor parish. On January 1, 1881 a new constitution was adopted and a charter was obtained on September 12, 1881.

On September 4, 1955, following the resignation of Pastor R. K. Weber, the congregation voted to align with St. Mark's Church, Arona. This resulted from

the merger of the Old Zion and Hempfield Zion churches of Harrold's, and this ended many years of harmonious parish relationships with Old Zion. The congregation was served by a supply pastor, Dr. E. H. Daugherty, until the Spring of 1956, when Donald G. Cochran, a Gettysburg Seminary student, was called subject to ordination.

The following pastors served St. Paul's: J. M. Steck, 1812-1830; M. J. Steck, 1830-1848; W. S. Emery, 1848-1858; W. F. Ulery (supply), 1858; S. B. Lawson, 1859-1865; J. P. Hentz, 1865-1866; H. J. H. Lemcke, 1866-1872; Jacob Singer, 1873-1876; A. G. Wilson, 1876-1877; J. S. Fink, 1877-1881; George Gaumer, 1882-1884; C. H. Hemsath, 1885-1887; W. H. Zuber, 1887-1894; W. F. Ulery (supply) 1894-1895; Jonathan Sarver, D. D. 1895-1903; J. O. Glenn, 1904-1911; E. H. Kohn, 1911-1913; Isaac K. Wismer, 1913-1922; F. L. Will, 1923-1925; A. F. Schilling, 1926-1942; F. B. Haer, 1942-1948; W. D. Guss, 1948-1953; R. K. Weber, 1954-1955; E. H. Daughterty, D. D. (supply), 1955-1956; D. G. Cochran, 1956- .

Ashtabula, Ohio First English 1908

IN August 1907, Rev. Wm. Pfeifer, a missionary of the Pittsburgh Synod, started the movement that grew into the First English Lutheran Church of Ashtabula, Ohio.

The small congregation rented a hall on Main Avenue and held services there until 1911, when they were encouraged to purchase a brick house at 874 Center Street. It is on this site that the present church is located. Pastor Pfeifer aided the congregation until 1908 when the Rev. Giles VanBuren Shumann came.

On December 21, 1910, The Rev. Clement Dozer assumed pastoral duties. On July 3, 1911, the congregation formally joined the Pittsburgh Synod.

William J. Dozer, was elected by acclamation on March 29, 1914, to be Teaching and Missionary Deacon. He was consecrated to the office April 23, 1914.

This church was the first in America to call a man to service in this capacity. The purpose of the call and consecration was to revive this evangelical service in the church; which was once performed by such men as Stephan and Philip as related in the Book of Acts. This office was suspended September 7, 1914, because of lack of money. August 29, 1920, a call was accepted by Albert Docktor. Pastor Docktor was asked to resign by Synod in 1923. In 1923, Dr. Agustus William Ahl of Thiel College was supply Pastor. The Rev. James Merrel Uber arrived in December and took over the work of building up the church. The burden of debt was heavy and in less than two years Pastor Uber gave up the cause and accepted an appointment to another church farther west.

In November 1925, the Rev. Leopold Benze, preached to a congregation of nine members. A call was extended to him and he arrived in Ashtabula, February 2, 1926. One of the first projects of the congregation was to improve the interior of the church.

The Loyal Workers, the Senior Luther League, the Intermediate Luther League, and the Sunday School, not only carried a share of the financial burden, but also were instrumental in reducing and finally clearing the property of debt.

On Easter Sunday of 1942, Rev. Benze announced his resignation. A seminary student, Paul M. Ruff, attended to the needs of the congregation in the late summer of 1942. An invitation was extended to him to return upon his graduation in June, 1943 to be pastor of the church. While Pastor Ruff was completing his studies at Philadelphia Seminary, the Rev. Charles Barnett worked with and encouraged the people of the church. The new pastor was installed on June 6, 1943. The congregation fell to work with a new will.

In the same year a Building Fund was started with a $1,000 goal for the year. This reached, the goal for 1945 was set at $1,200. Each year the goal was increased and oversubscribed.

The chancel and nave were redecorated in 1945 and a pipe organ, the gift of a Cleveland church, was installed. The effect of these improvements was noticed immediately. The brightness of the walls was reflected in the faces and hearts of the people. With the time for razing the old building drawing near, the congregation realized the need of a new home for the pastor and his family. In addition to the Building Fund Goal, the sum of $2,000 was raised in 1947, for a Parsonage Fund, and in 1948 a house at 1713 Prospect Road was purchased.

On September 20, 1948, the men began tearing down the rear of the church; by Easter Sunday 1949, only the nave and chancel of the church remained. After the Deconsecration Service on Easter morning, the congregation met at Ducro's Chapel on Elm Avenue.

May 22, 1949, ground breaking ceremonies were held. The cornerstone was placed June 20. Encased in a bronze box in the cornerstone were lists of the communing membership, the council, the building committee, a copy of the day's bulletin, the Lutheran Monthly for May, and a 1949 silver coin.

As soon as the doors were hung and the heating system installed, the first service was held. This was on October 23, 1949. The interior decorating, hanging of the lanterns, plumbing, painting, and carpentry, were finished by members and friends of the congregation.

The structure of the church is functional Gothic — a modern application of of old Gothic styling. Approximate cost is $38,000, while the most conservative valuation is $70,000. On March 19, 1950, the Dedication was held.

The greatest dream of all accomplished, Pastor Ruff turned his time and talents to establishing a church in Jefferson, Ohio. Seminary student, David H. Schmidt, assisted the pastor during the summer of 1950. Upon the resignation of pastor Ruff in 1952 a call was extended to the Rev. J. Allen Snyder, Jr., and his pastoral duties began in September, 1952.

Entering a two parish charge, the demands were great and the work took a great deal of time, both physical and mental, but both congregations continued to grow, so much that the Ashtabula parishioners made known their wishes to be self-sustaining. In June 1955, therefore, the Jefferson congregation was joined with a parish in Springboro, Penna.

In January, 1956, four months after the resignation of Pastor Snyder, a call was extended to seminary student, Eugene W. Newell, at Wittenburg Seminary. Mr. Newell accepted this call and was ordained at his home church in Dunkirk, N. Y., on June 8, 1956. In February the old parsonage located at 1713 Prospect Rd., was sold and a house located at 6233 Edwards Avenue was purchased. Also additional

land located behind the church was purchased as additional parking space.

Pastors who have served the Ashtabula charge are: Wm. F. Pfeifer (missionary organizer), 1907-1908; G. V. Schumann, 1908-1910; C. L. V. Dozer, 1910-1920; A. W. Dockter, 1920-1923; A. W. Ahl (supply), 1923; J. M. Uber, 1923-1925; L. O. Benze, 1926-1942; Paul M. Ruff, 1943-1952; J. Allen Snyder, Jr.; 1952-1955; Eugene W. Newell, 1956 —.

Aspinwall Evangelical Lutheran 1895

THE town of Aspinwall lies on the north bank of the Allegheny River and faces Highland Park, Pittsburgh. Beginning around 1890, and continuing through World War I, this residential suburb grew rapidly, but by 1930 it had reached the limits of its development and growth, so that the population has stood at about 4400 ever since that time.

Lutheran work in Aspinwall began in 1894 with a Branch Sunday School established by the Rev. S. D. Daugherty, pastor of the neighboring parish in Sharpsburg, First English Lutheran. A year later, April 15, 1895, the congregation was organized as a Home Mission project of the Pittsburgh Synod (GS) with a charter list of 30 members. Church lots were purchased for $1,800, and a contract was awarded for the erection of a brick building to cost $3,000. After the construction began, attention was directed to securing a regular pastor. An arrangement was made with the Rev. Herman C. Reller and his congregation, Emmanuel Lutheran, Freeport, whereby his services would be shared with this new mission. His work in Aspinwall began January 1, 1896. Six months later the church building was completed and dedicated. In 1902 Pastor Reller resigned at Freeport in order to give full-time service here. The congregation became self-sustaining October 1, 1904.

There followed years of trial and years of strong, steady advance. In 1913 the building was enlarged at a cost of $7,000. Pastor Reller resigned in September, 1916, closing a pastorate of twenty years and eight months. The next four pastorates combined, totalled but fifteen years, including the periods of vacancy between them.

The first parsonage was purchased in 1923, then sold 19 years later in order to secure the present one in a more convenient location. A very fine Moller pipe organ was installed in 1929, and the congregation was experiencing at this time a surge of new life and remarkable growth. Membership gains in Aspinwall Lutheran have continued slowly but steadily up to the present.

By 1949 the congregation had noticeably outgrown its building and facilities, and two steps were taken to meet the challenge — a remodeling project that increased the seating 15 per cent, and the introduction of a schedule of two worship services every Sunday morning. Midnight Christmas Eve worship services have been held since 1933, making this church a pioneer in the custom among all the Protestant congregations in the Tri-state Area.

Growth of the Sunday School led to the purchase of an adjoining property in 1954, which was made into a Parish House and provides class rooms for all those in school grades 4-12. A successful Weekday Church School, begun in 1955 for the children in school grades 1-3, is to be expanded yearly until it links up with the classes in Catechism, school grades 7 and 8.

A glimpse at the communing membership at the end of each ten years, shows: 21 (1895), 101 (1905), 130 (1915), 144 (1925), 222 (1935), 285 (1945), and 385 (1955). Two members have gone into full-time Christian Service, the Rev. James E.

McDonald, now deceased, and the Rev. George C. Vetter, now pastor of Hebron Lutheran, Leechburg.

Six pastors have served the congregation: Herman C. Reller, 1895-1916; Paul M. Kinports, 1917-1918; Earl S. Rudisill, 1919-1923; W. Roy Goff, 1923-1927; Sheldon S. Schweikert, 1927-1931; George E. Little 1931 —.

Avonmore Hebron 1891

SOMETIME between 1797 and 1805 an attempt was made to build a church in Avonmore on a hill overlooking the Kiskiminetas. Logs were brought to the site and construction was started. However, before many logs had been put in place the question of ownership stopped all operations. To whom should the land be deeded? The people could not decide, so the edifice which had been started remained unfinished.

In 1890 another attempt was made to establish a church here. A number of General Synod Lutherans from Leechburg were determined to start a church. Rev. J. W. Poffinberger brought the matter to the attention of the Conemaugh Conference and a special committee was appointed to secure the building of a chapel. The churches of the Conference made liberal contributions that this chapel might be built. Rev. Poffinberger secured money from other sources in addition. The lot was secured by donation from the Avonmore Land and Improvement Company and a chapel was constructed at a cost of $900. Rev. Poffinberger dedicated this chapel on December 6, 1891 and in this chapel Hebron Lutheran church was organized December 13, 1891. In the summer of 1892 student Ellis B. Burgess succeeded in adding twenty-three new members to the congregation.

Also in 1891 another church organizing activity began. This was headed by the members of St. James' church, located three miles distant from Avonmore. Pastor W. G. D. Hudson began holding regular services for the St. James' members who lived in Avonmore. A temporary chapel was built on the land owned by Jacob Hine. This church was organized into St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in 1892. St. Andrew's was made a part of the Saltsburg Parish and was served by Pastor Hudson until 1896, when he resigned.

Sharp rivalry existed between Hebron and St. Andrew's. However, after a five year period, more and more families came into the fold of Hebron. The last of the families, however, did not come until after the synodical merger. The first regular pastor of Hebron was Ellis B. Burgess who became pastor in June 1, 1893 at a salary of $600. During the second year of his pastorate a mission grant of $160 was secured for the congregation and the church was united with the Maysville church.

The little chapel became too small, so the cornerstone of a new church was laid by Pastor M. S. Kemp September 27, 1903. This was a substantial building of brick and stone, 50 x 75, costing $8,750. Daniel W. Sober, an active member of Hebron, was the contractor. A second house of worship was built by St. Andrew's in the fall of 1899. This was a neat frame chapel erected on land donated by the Avonmore Land and Improvement Company, and dedicated February 18, 1900. This property was sold in 1918 and turned into a private dwelling.

During the pastorate of Carl E. Maier, 1941-1945, a third congregation was added to the Avonmore Parish. This was Beulah congregation which had a difficult time and was finally disbanded in 1957. Eighty per cent of its members united either with Hebron or Maysville.

Pastors who served St. Andrew's from 1892 to the merger of 1917 were: W. G.

D. Hudson, 1892-1896; A. M. Strauss, 1897-1901; E. E. Sieger, 1903; W. A. Lambert (supply), 1904; E. L. Baker, 1905; L. O. Pearch, 1905-1906; Charles D. Miller, 1907-1909; Supplies, 1909-1911; C. E. Schweikert, 1912-1914; Frank W. Ash, 1914-1917.

Pastors who served the Hebron congregation from 1893 to the present are: E. B. Burgess, 1893-1895; C. F. Sanders, 1895-1898; W. A. Hartman, 1898-1899; J. C. Nicholas, 1900-1901; M. S. Kemp, 1902-1905; F. A. Hightman, 1905-1908; M. R. Hamsher, 1908-1910; H. C. Stuckenberg, 1910-1912; W. A. Logan, 1913-1914; C. E. Liebegott, 1915-1917; R. N. Stumpf, 1917-1920; Edwin B. Boyer, 1920-1926; A. B. Harper, 1927-1930; T. Wilbur Eshenaur, 1930-1937; G. Grant Harvey, 1937-1940; Carl E. Maier, 1941-1945; E. J. Nerthling, 1945-1947; Richard L. Korber, 1947-1951; A. G. Fischer, 1951 —.

Avonmore Maysville 1852

MAYSVILLE church was organized by Rev. J. N. Burket on March 12, 1853. Prior to this time the Lutherans of this community attended services at St. James' of Westmoreland County. When services began in Springs Church in 1841 many of the Maysville people found it more convenient to attend there. Most of the original nineteen members of Maysville were members of the Springs Church.

The first church building was dedicated by Pastor David Earhart in the fall of 1853. On December 2, 1886 a second church was dedicated by Rev. C. B. King. This was a more commodious frame church costing $2,247.

Maysville has had many different parish connections. In the beginning this church was connected with St. James' and Springs Church; for a long time it was part of the Apollo Parish; from 1890 to 1895 it was connected with South Bend and Springs Church; since 1895 it has been a part of Avonmore Parish, receiving regular services every Sunday.

During the synodical controversy a large minority was in favor of the General Council, and public discussions on the question were held in the church. Representatives of both the General Council and the General Synod were heard. When a majority decided in favor of the General Synod, a number of members withdrew and attended services at St. James'. In the course of time, however, most of these returned to the church.

From 1943 to 1957 the Beulah congregation shared the pastor who served Maysville and Hebron of Avonmore. However, in 1957 this congregation was disbanded.

The pastors who have served this church are: J. N. Burket, 1853; David Earhart, 1853-1860; J. A. Delo, 1860-1864; John Welfley, 1864-1858; Michael Colver, 1869-A. W. McCullough, 1870-1872; J. F. Cressler, 1872-1875; G. F. Schaeffer, 1876-1882; C. B. King, 1883-1890; T. J. Frederick, 1890-1895; E. B. Burgess, 1895; C. F. Sanders, 1895-1898; Wilmer A. Hartman, 1898-1899; J. C. Nicholas, 1900-1901; M. S. Kemp, 1902-1905; F. A. Hightman, 1905-1908; M. R. Hamsher, 1908-1910; H. C. Stuckenberg, 1910-1912; W. A. Logan, 1913-1914; C. E. Liebegott, 1915-1917; R. N. Stumpf, 1917-1920; E. B. Boyer, 1920-1926; A. B. Harper, 1927-1930; T. Wilbur Eshenaur, 1930-1937; G. Grant Harvey, 1937-1940; Carl E. Maier, 1941-1945; E. J. Nerthling, 1945-1947; Richard L. Korber, 1947-1951; A. G. Fischer, 1951 —.

Baden Christ 1858

(See Plate 2)

THE founding of this church was largely due to the death of an old horse. When Doctor Passavant missed the Deardorf family from his Rochester services, and learned their absence was due to the loss of their horse, he determined to carry the ministry of the Lutheran Church to their Baden home. His first service was held in the Methodist Church, and Christ Church was organized in the fall of 1858. One of the weaknesses of Dr. Passavant was his inability to keep good church records, and the early records of Christ Church are confined to a few scraps of paper, on which are written some names and dates.

A plain frame church was built in 1861 at a cost of $1500.00 but no record has been preserved of its formal dedication. The church was first mentioned in the records of the Pittsburgh Synod in 1862 as a congregation of twelve members, but it was not regularly admitted to the Synod until 1908. The deed for the church ground was dated, February 27, 1862, the trustees being W. A. Passavant, John Kennedy, John McKee, Thomas A. Hering, and Dittmer Ehrman. The large parsonage lot of one and a half acres was secured for the congregation by Dr. Passavant, September 28, 1877, for $550. A frame parsonage was erected on this lot in 1890. From the parsonage acreage lots were sold at various times, 1891-1898. Dr. Passavant served this church from 1858 to 1879, making the trip from Pittsburgh every two weeks, and built up a congregation of fifty members.

Baden, Logstown, Rehoboth, and Crows Run composed the Parish. His successor was his son, W. A. Passavant, Jr., who served with equal acceptance for six years. Another long pastorate was that of R. M. Smith, 1887-1907, during which the congregation had a steady if slow development. For a number of years the need of a better church was discussed, and a small building fund was accumulated, but the new building did not take form until 1922. It was the intention of the congregation to build on the parsonage corner, but careful examination showed that the cost of excavating would be almost prohibitive, and another site in the opposite end of town, 120 x 120, was bought for $2,500.

Having studied achitecture in former years, Pastor F. F. Haworth prepared the plans and superintended the construction of a brick church and parsonage at the cost of $30,000. The cornerstone was laid, February 26, 1922, and the church dedicated by Pastor Haworth, October 1, 1922. The Rev. Frederick F. Haworth closed his pastorate, May 17, 1925, entering the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Calvin S. Brewer of Ringgold Parish was extended a call. Pastor Brewer began his work, September 1, 1926. The indebtedness on the church and parsonage was $12,500. Pastor Brewer and the congregation worked against many odds during the depression years of the 1930's to decrease the church debt and increase the membership of church and Sunday School.

The 75th Anniversary of the organization of the congregation was held with appropriate services, May 20, 1934. Organizations of the church, besides the Sunday School are the Ladies Aid Society, the Harriet Moore Mission Band, a Young Women's Missionary Society and a Luther League. The growth of the church had been marked with interest, especially during the years following the depression. Pastor Brewer closed his pastorate here, December 31, 1941, accepting a call to the St. Peter's, Northeast.

Pastor Jacob O. Kroen accepted a call January 25, 1942 and was installed March 1, 1942 by Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, President of Synod. Four years later, after much sacrifice and hard work, the mortgage of the church was burned at a special service

by the oldest active members, Messrs. George L. Black, Sr., and Charles P. Bryan on July 6, 1946.

A Hammond Church Organ was dedicated to the men and women of the church who served in the Armed Forces of our country in World Wars I and II on May 15, 1951. A new tile floor was laid in the Sunday School and basement rooms February 19, 1953. A gas fired steam boiler was installed in the church building December 1, 1954. A beautiful reredos was built, designed and installed in the chancel by members of the church council. Communicant membership has grown from 50 in 1942 to 193 in 1956.

The Pastors served in the following order: W. A. Passavant, Sr., D.D., 1858-1879; W. A. Passavant, Jr., D.D., 1879-1885; R. M. Smith, D.D., 1887-1907; W. F. Pfeifer, D.D., 1908-1911; F. W. Richter, 1912-1920; F. F. Haworth, Ph.D., 1920-1925; C. S. Brewer, 1926-1941; Jacob O. Kroen, 1942 —.

Baden (Conway) First 1909

THE first Lutheran service in this town was conducted by Pastor W. F. Pfeifer in Stahl's Hall, September 6, 1908. Many members of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Baden, Pa., attended this service for they were deeply interested in the establishment of a congregation. Among names prominent in the work were George B. Forsythe, E. M. Mensch, and Henry J. Bock. On September 20, 1908, the Sunday School was organized with 32 members. On January 10, 1909, the church was organized by Pastor Pfeifer with 25 members. It was admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod in 1909 and attached to the Baden Parish. The first communion was administered January 24, 1909 with 44 communicants.

A building lot was donated by Adolph Heppel, but this was sold in order to secure a better location on the corner of Second Avenue and Tenth Street. The cornerstone was laid April 9, 1911 by the Pastor. Addresses were made by the Revs. Merkham and Rosenblum. The last named lot was bought for $775 on December 11, 1910.

When building plans were prepared, the old Vicary Church was bought for $200 and made the frame for a brick-cased church that was dedicated September 10, 1911. The Vicary Church was located on Freedom Hill, most of whose members went to St. John's Church when the organization disbanded in 1907. Pastor W. F. Pfeifer closed his pastorate October 8, 1911. The second Pastor was the Rev. F. W. Richter, who served from May 5, 1912 to April 4, 1920, and then accepted a call to the Inner Mission Society of Pittsburgh. The work of the Lord continued to grow and prosper under his pastorate. The third pastor was the Rev. F. F. Haworth who accepted a call December 12, 1920 and was installed as pastor of the Baden-Conway Parish December 19, 1920. The unfinished basement was completed for use as a Sunday School and for social purposes. The growth of the church and Sunday School was slow but steady. Pastor F. F. Haworth closed his pastorate and affiliation with the Lutheran Church, May 17, 1925, to serve in the Episcopal Church.

The fourth Pastor was the Rev. Calvin S. Brewer from the Ringgold Parish, January 10, 1926. The depression in 1929 caused much suffering to the members, but the growth of church and Sunday School continued slowly and steadily. Pastor Brewer relinquished his pastorate December 31, 1941 to accept a call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, North East, Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Jacob O. Kroen accepted a call January 25, 1942 and was installed March 1, 1942 by the Rev. Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, president of the Pittsburgh Synod.

The entire interior of the Church was redecorated and painted. The dedicatory service was held on October 10, 1943, Dr. P. H. R. Mullen, preaching the sermon. Tuesday, October 12th was guest night and two former Pastors, the Rev. W. H. Pfeifer and the Rev. Calvin S. Brewer were present. One hundred people attended.

The Pastors of Baden have served the Conway Church as follows: W. F. Pfeifer, 1908-1911; F. W. Richter, 1912-1920; F. F. Haworth, 1920-1925; C. S. Brewer, 1926-1941; Jacob O. Kroen, 1942 —.

Baldwin — North Zion — 1800

MT. ZION is the oldest Lutheran church in Allegheny county. A number of German families lived in this community as early as 1788, but they attended church services at the Stechers settlement of Washington county. In 1800 they were organized by Pastor Jno. Strauch of Fayette county and were given regular services six times a year. These first services were held in the cabins of the pioneers. Their first church was built of logs in the cemetery at White Hall and was known as the Dutch Lutheran Church of Lower St. Clair Twp. It was dedicated by Pastor G. H. Weygandt in 1812.

This church was replaced by a frame building in 1836 which was dedicated as West Salem. About 1849 the congregation decided to relocate the church on lands of Jacob Horning and Jacob Sickmann about two miles distant. A brick church was erected and dedicated in 1850. This church, however, was wrecked by a tornado two years later and it was replaced by a more substantial brick structure which was dedicated by Pastor Jno. Welfley in 1859.

The two latter brick churches were dedicated as North Zion to distinguish them from the West Salem church at White Hall. As soon as the congregation was established in the new place of worship, they leasted their West Salem church a German Lutheran congregation for a period of 99 years. This congregation was organized by Rev. Daniel Maier of McKeesport in 1849. North Zion never had a large membership, numbering fewer than 100 communicants. After 1874 many of the young people of the church moved to the city, making the membership lower. In 1901 the coal was sold under the church making it possible to beautify the edifice.

Rev. H. M. Messner served as permanent supply at North Zion for 25 years in conjunction with his pastorate at Redeemer, Carrick. In 1947 the church had its first permanent pastor in many years. Under Rev. George C. Vetter a parsonage was acquired and the transition was made from a rural to a growing suburban congregation.

Ralph L. Erickson began his pastorate on June 15, 1952. Architect's plans for an addition to the church were approved by the church council and Dr. Donald L. Houser, Superintendent of Missions. On September 21, 1952 ground was broken for the addition. Rev. Luther K. Clare brought greetings from the Central Conference and Dr. Houser preached the sermon.

Financing was made possible through the Board of American Missions, the Church Extension Society of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Synod. In 1956 North Zion had a communing membership of 248.

The following ministers have served this church: Jno. Strauch, 1800-1808; G. H. Weygandt, 1808-1829; Jno. Brown, 1829-1838; G. S. Hussey, 1841-1844; Abraham Weills, 1844-1846; Sol Weills, 1846-1855; J. S. Lawson, 1855-1858;

Jno. Welfley, 1859-1864; H. W. Roth, 1864-1866; J. S. Lawson, 1866-1868; A. McLaughlin, 1868-1874; J. H. Houseman, 1874-1878; C. S. Coates, 1878-1882; Samuel Stouffer, 1883-1884; J. K. Hilty, 1884-1886; M. L. Furst, 1886-1890; J. E. Hassinger, 1893-1895; Supplies, 1895-1901; J. B. Weaver, 1901-1904; W. C. Spade, 1904-1906; George Nodem, 1906-1922; H. M. Messner, 1922-1947; G. C. Vetter, 1947-1952; R. L. Erickson, 1952-1957; R. K. Brunk, 1957--.

Beaver Holy Trinity 1928

THE Lutherans living in Beaver for over one hundred years belonged to other churches in the Beaver Valley. During the summer of 1928 Dr. John J. Myers, Superintendent of Missions, engaged Adam E. Simon, a student at Chicago Seminary, to canvass the town and secure the interest of some of these Lutheran brethren in undertaking the organization of a congregation.

In the auditorium of Beaver High School an organizational service was held by Dr. Myers and Student Simon on Sunday, June 3. Forty-seven persons were received into the church. Since that Sunday was Holy Trinity Sunday, they named the congregation Holy Trinity. The Marshall property on the corner of Fourth and Beaver Streets was purchased, and the Rev. George L. Ulrich was called to become the first pastor.

The house was remodeled and an addition was placed on the Beaver Street side of the property, making a small chapel which could seat one hundred and twenty-five. The second floor was used as a parsonage until 1950.

During the depression years the congregation struggled on. The Curtis-Wright plant came to Beaver in 1941, and with it many Lutherans moved into the parish during the war years. When Westinghouse took over the government-owned property in 1947, many more Lutherans from the Turtle Creek Valley came into town.

After many ups and downs, the congregation's growth continued with the influx of many new families into the area. The charter membership of forty-seven had grown into a confirmed membership of 375 at the end of 1955.

In 1953 the congregation engaged the Wells Organization and an intensive Stewardship campaign was conducted. More than $60,000 was given and pledged for a new church. At the congregational meeting in the fall of 1953, the congregation decided to relocate. Two properties at Third and Navigation Streets were purchased for $33,500. Ground was broken on May 2, 1954 for the first of three steps in the building of a new church plant. Arthur L. Martsolf was retained as the architect and drew plans for a Colonial style building. The property at Fourth and Beaver was sold to the Rochester Episcopalian Church for $25,500 in September, 1955 The Basement Unit, basement to both the nave of the church and the educational wing, was dedicated February 5, 1956 with Dr. Paul Daugherty, Superintendent of Missions, preaching the dedicatory sermon. The cost of the first unit was $75,000; the estimate of the total cost when completed is $225,000.

The pastors who have served Holy Trinity include: G. L. Ulrich, 1928-1937; J. Melanchthlon Weber 1937-1939; Herman J. Schmid, 1940-1942; Clarence E. Naugle, 1943-1948; Lester M. Utz, 1949-1951; and Norman E. Kieffer, 1951- —.

Beaver Falls Christ 1886

(See Plate 3)

THE first effort to establish an English Lutheran Church in the Beaver Falls community was made by Dr. Passavant in 1861. The number of Lutheran families was so few at that time that the effort failed. A standing missionary appropriation was made by the Pittsburgh Synod, 1871-1877, but no missionary pastor could be secured.

Late in 1883 a number of Lutherans from the Beaver Falls area addressed a letter to the missionary superintendent of the synod which resulted in regular services every two weeks for one year in the W. C. T. U. Hall. In the spring of 1885 this same group of Lutherans was granted the privilege of holding worship in the German Evangelical Church at the corner of 13th street and 4th avenue in Beaver Falls. The official organization of this earnest church-minded band of Lutherans was effected June 20, 1886 under the direction of Rev. J. W. Myers of Rochester.

The constitution recommended by the General Council was adopted at the organization meeting. The Sunday School was organized in 1885 in the German Evangelical Church with J. T. Aye as the first superintendent. The average attendance at this school for the first year was fifteen.

The will to live and expand soon showed itself within this newly organized church when it set about to buy a lot and build a church. A lot on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Eleventh Street was bought from the Harmony Society for $1,000, the deed bearing the date April 1, 1887. The cornerstone of the church was laid by Rev. J. K. Melhorn, November 27, 1887 and the building was dedicated by Pastor J. W. Myers, May 18, 1888. Dr. Edmund Belfour preached the sermon. It was a frame structure 34′ x 56′ with a corner tower. The cost of building was $3,463.90. The minutes of the weekly council meetings of this new congregation indicate a debt of $2,524 which proved a heavy burden for many years. To surmount it called for faithful, stout-hearted prayerful members.

The pastors who served Christ Evangelical Lutheran congregation have been twelve in number (as of 1956). When Pastor Myers resigned June 1, 1888 the church was connected temporarily with the newly organized church of New Brighton and placed under the care of Pastor J. H. Delo. This parish relationship was dissolved in 1890 and Christ Church has been a separate parish ever since.

The vision of those first 24 charter members that the English-speaking Lutherans of the area should be organized and have a house of worship has been justified in the elapsing of the 70 years of the church's history. As the population of Beaver Falls grew from 8,000 in 1880 to 10,054 in 1900, to 14,000 in 1920, to 19,000 in 1950—a corresponding growth is indicated in the records of the above pastorates. In the first several years of the congregation's existence the communicant membership grew for the 24 charter members to 65 by June 1889, to 135 in 1900, to 232 in 1910, to 295 in 1930, to 380 communicant members in 1956.

By 1928 the growth of the community and the congregation justified a new and larger venture in church construction. The old parsonage was moved to another location in town and the old church was torn down. In their places was constructed the present church edifice, a brick and stone structure valued at $250,000, with an adjoining parsonage valued at $30,000.

The church is built in a modified Gothic style. The plan of the auditorium is cruciform in shape, the left or east wing forms the choir platform and in it is found the organ console. The right wing forms a small chapel in which is found the baptismal font, a secondary altar and a small section of seats. The pulpit, lecturn,

altar, reredos, paneling and organ grilles have been designed of oak. The seating capacity of the main auditorium and balcony is 600; the Sunday School room 440; and the social and recreation hall of the basement 314.

Since the dedication services, the church has been made more functional by adding a modern kitchen unit, a tiled basement and walls and a new gas furnace. This church structure, a pride and joy to the members of the congregation, adapts itself most satisfactorily to community affairs — especially should be mentioned the annual community-wide Good Friday Service.

To date Christ Church has a baptised membership of 977 and a confirmed membership of 662.

The following pastors have served Christ: J. W. Myers, 1886-1888; J. H. Delo, 1888-1891; Jonathan Sarver, 1891-1893; J. C. N. Park, 1894-1897; C. T. Benze, 1897-1898; J. A. Zundel, 1898-1903; J. L. Fischer, 1903-1909; F. P. Cook, 1810-1919; C. H. Tilp, 1920-1926; W. H. Shepfer, 1926-1941; J. R. Booth, 1932-1949; W. E. Lundberg, 1949--.

Beaver Falls First 1871

THIS church was founded by Pastor Otto Von Zech with 23 members, September 10, 1871, and was originally known as "The First German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Church". The charter was secured December 7, 1874. Three churches have been erected by the congregation. The cornerstone of the first church was laid November 3, 1871, and the building dedicated June 21, 1872. It was built of frame on Fifth street. Because of a heavy debt it was sold in 1882.

The cornerstone of the second church was laid July 2, 1882, and the building dedicated by Pastor John Mueller, November 19, 1882. This brick church was located at Sixth avenue and Ninth street, and served the congregation until 1910 when it was sold to the Polish Catholic congregation.

The cornerstone of the third church was laid at Fourth avenue and Sixteenth street November 27, 1910, and the building dedicated by Pastor J. C. C. Scheer September 4, 1911. At this time the name St. Paul's was surrendered.

The congregation has owned two parsonages. The first was bought in 1893, and when this was sold, the pastor furnished his own home until 1921, when a brick house was built on the church ground.

For the first seven years this church was a member of the Joint Synod of Ohio, but it was accepted as a mission of the Pittsburgh Synod in 1877. From 1883 to 1893 the name of the church does not appear upon the synodical roll, and then it was admitted to membership the second time. Begun as a German congregation, the services were conducted in that language for almost fifty years. English services then were introduced and both languages have been used for thirty-five years. Financial difficulties beset the congregation for a long time until in 1944 a debt-free jubilee was held.

The Sunday School and the Ladies' Aid Society were organized in 1871, and the Luther League in 1895. The Martha Society, the Marie Giesel Missionary Guild, and the Brotherhood are helpful auxiliaries of the church.

A list of the pastorates follows: Otto Von Zech, 1871-1872; John Hoerr, 1872-1873; Edward Knauth, 1873-1874; Otto Von Zech (second term), 1874-1875; Egbert Sylla, 1876-1877; John Mueller, 1878-1883; William Steinmann, 1884-1885; M. F. Lauffer 1886-1887; C. J. Bohnen, 1887-1889; H. Wellhausen, 1889-

1890; Ewald Hann, 1890; P. J. C. Glatzert, 1890-1891; E. F. V. Steinhagen, 1891-1893; Paul Kummer, 1893-1895; J. P. Hansen, 1895-1896; J. C. C. Scheer, 1896-1920; C. R. Stolz, 1920-1928; E. A. Giesel, 1928-1938; R. R. Syre, 1938-1943; J. H. Deutschlander, 1943-1944; T. G. Hoeniger, 1944-1945; Waldemar Buch, 1945--.

Bellevue — Emanuel's — 1886

(See Plate 4)

THE beginnings of this congregation are readily traced to the missionary spirit of Dr. Passavant. When Manchester was a small town on the banks of the Ohio, separated by woods and meadows from Allegheny City, he secured a lot on Juniata Street, and held it in trust for a future Lutheran Church. A frame building was secured, with the intention of placing it on this lot and fitting it up as a chapel, but this building was wrecked by a storm, and the plans of the missionary were temporarily abandoned. The ground was sacredly held, however, in the hope that it would some day serve the purpose for which it was given.

When Rev. J. Q. Waters accepted a call to Chartiers in 1885, he did so with the understanding that he would be permitted to devote a large part of his time in developing a mission in Manchester. During the fall of that year he made a canvass of the community, and found that there were a number of Lutherans who would welcome an organization. The mission chapel of the United Presbyterians was secured as a place of meeting at a monthly rental of $10.00. The first service was held there on the Sunday before Christmas of 1885. Prospects seemed bright, and Emanuel's Church was organized with twenty-one members, July 31, 1886. The constitution recommended by the General Council was adopted, but the first Church Council was not elected until August 16, 1886. The Sunday School was organized, January 1, 1886, with an enrollment of three teachers and eighteen scholars.

The lot secured by Dr. Passavant was then placed at the disposal of the congregation, and plans were laid for the building of a church. The cornerstone of this church was laid, May 8, 1887, and the building opened for services, July 31, 1887, when Dr. W. A. Passavant and Rev. J. K. Melhorn preached the sermons. It was a frame building, 32 x 54, semi-gothic, with slate roof and stained glass memorial windows. Pastor Waters remained until 1889, when Pastor C. W. Jeffries was installed as his successor.

The fourth pastor of the church was Rev. Jacob M. Hankey, who was installed, June 12, 1892. During his pastorate a large part of the congregation, who preferred a General Synod Church, withdrew and organized Bethel Church with the full consent of the pastor of Emanuel's, who accepted a call from the new organization.

For a time it seemed as if Emanuel's Church would be completely disorganized, but those who remained loyal to the original constitution rallied under the leadership of Rev. Jonathan Sarver, who, in a short but intensive pastorate of two years, added 90 members to the congregation.

A new era dawned with the coming of Pastor B. F. Hankey, March 3, 1907, but the call was accepted with the understanding that new work should be begun at once in Bellevue. Accordingly, a Sunday School of seventeen scholars was organized in the W. C. T. U. Hall, Lincoln Avenue, March 17, 1907. The first church service was held at the same place on the evening of the same day, which was attended by twenty-eight persons. The pastor was installed in Bellevue, and thus the foundations of the new work were laid.

The Manchester church building was sold for $7,400.00; but, before this was accomplished, it was found advisable to effect a temporary organization in Bellevue,

and this was done in W. C. T. U. Hall, September 22, 1907, when 22 persons entered the organization, adopted a constitution. This preliminary organization lasted only until December 19, 1907, when the two congregations were merged.

The Pittsburgh Church Extension Society secured a lot for the mission in the early part of 1907 at a cost of $7,250. This society also agreed to loan $2,750.00 for the building of a church, making a total loan of $10,000. This gave great encouragement, and the contract was let at once to W. H. C. Moore and H. G. Ruehl. The cornerstone was laid, July 19, 1908, and the church dedicated, February 7, 1909. This church was built of stone, and furnished according to churchly ideals, at a cost of $17,347.00. Later a pipe organ was installed at a cost of $2,250.00 and a parsonage secured for $5,800.00. A stone tower was erected and furnished with a sweet-toned bell by Mr. Arnold Stucki in memory of his deceased wife, which was dedicated by Pastor Hankey, March 19, 1922. The property is now conservatively valued at $50,000.00.

As years progressed, the congregation grew and saw the need for a new Parish House. In the fall of 1926 ground was broken for this building. The cornerstone was laid in the winter, with Dr. Ellis B. Burgess, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, participating in the exercises. Upon completion, the building, constructed of the same kind of Indiana limestone as used in the original church, consisted of 15 rooms and cost $40,000.00.

The entire community and congregation were shocked with the sudden death of Dr. Hankey, which occurred early in the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 5, 1930. Dr. Hankey was in the midst of preparing to be host to the Central Conference meeting on the very day of his death.

After several months, an unanimous call was extended to Rev. G. Lawrence Himmelman. He accepted the call on June 21, 1931 and was duly installed. During his pastorate the congregation continued to grow.

The 25th Anniversary of the congregation's life in Bellevue was celebrated on Palm Sunday, 1932. A summary of facts as of that day showed accessions into the congregation totalling 913, a confirmed membership of 489, and a total contribution for the 25 years amounting to $223,907, of which $50,872 was for Benevolences and $173,035 for current expenses including the building program.

On March 19, 1937, a mortgage burning service was conducted to mark the completion of the payment of the debt on the Parish House. Pastor William C. Hankey, North East, Pa., son of the founder of the congregation preached the sermon and Mr. John E. Winner long time member of the church reviewed the development of the congregation thru the 30 years now ended.

Upon the payment of the indebtedness on the Parish House new hope was kindled in the hearts of the members for the completion of the original plan for the church edifice, as it now exists. The building of this extension to the original church unit, joining it with the Parish House constructed in 1926-27, provided for a narthex, a balcony, a commodious chancel, and increased the seating capacity by 150 to a total of 450. The original organ was rebuilt and located in the chancel, a choir robing room and a sacristy were added. It provided a pastor's study and an additional meeting room on the second-floor level. Also a completely equipped kitchen, a church parlor, rest rooms and enlarged Sunday School facilities were made available on the ground floor. A public address system was installed. Also a set of Schulmerich Carillon chimes were installed in the tower of the church. All this was done for a total cost of $62,000.00.

The hope for a "Greater Emanuel's" was realized on April 19, 1942 at the morning service of dedication of the now completed church edifice. The dedication

sermon was preached by Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, President of the Pittsburgh Synod. In the evening Rev. Ellis B. Burgess addressed the celebrating congregation. The services were conducted by Pastor G. L. Himmelman, assisted by the Rev. William C. Hankey.

A call was extended to the Rev. Lester M. Utz, S.T.M. on Dec. 17, 1950. Pastor Utz and his family moved into the Schaberg property on Richbarn Rd., North Side, Pittsburgh. A few months later, this property, which had been devised to the congregation during the previous year, was sold, and the proceeds derived therefrom were used as partial payment applied toward the purchased price of $17,000.00 for the Ecke house, 94 South Fremont Ave., Bellevue, as a permanent parsonage and was occupied by Pastor Utz and family Nov. 1, 1951.

In the year 1951, during the month of May, the congregation rejoiced in the burning of the mortgage of the indebtedness on the extension of the church edifice. Dr. G. L. Himmelman, now president of the Pittsburgh Synod, and former pastor of Emanuel's, participated in the burning of the mortgage and preached the sermon at the service.

During 1953, major improvements were made to the church by the installation of a new automatic gas-burning furnace at a total cost of $8,000.00. Another project of significance to the beautification of the church nave was the creation and installation of a series of new stained-glass windows, symbolic in design, and setting forth in theme, the major virtues of the Christian life. The total cost of these windows, manufactured by the Hunt Studios, amounted to approximately $7,600.00, and was completed during the 50th Anniversary year of 1957.

The observance of the 50th Anniversary year of the organization of the congregation in Bellevue was marked with a series of five special services. The first occurred on March 17, the very day, of the founding of the congregation just fifty years before. The guest speaker was the Rev. William C. Hankey.

On June 2nd the second in the series of five services was held with Dr. Dwight F. Putman, president of the Central Pennsylvania Synod as the guest speaker.

The third service in the series occurred on Sunday, June 30, when the Rev. Dr. G. Lawrence Himmelman, president of the Synod, and former pastor of Emanuel's for 19 years, returned to preach the anniversary sermon.

At the fourth service, October 20, Emanuel's was highly honored to have, as the climax of the series, the appearance of the Rev. Dr. F. Eppling Reinartz, Secretary of the United Lutheran Church, and President of the National Lutheran Council, as the guest preacher.

The fifth and final event in the series of observances of the Golden Anniversary took the form of an anniversary dinner held at the Colonial Restaurant in Avalon, on Friday evening, October 25, 1957.

Internal improvements to the Sunday School room during the Anniversary year had cost $16,000; plans were carefully laid for the purchase of a new organ to be installed by 1960 at an approximate cost of $42,000; and the building of a new parsonage to cost no less than $25,000.00. It was also noted that under the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Utz, the total of internal improvements to the church and the acquiring of a parsonage exceeded an expenditure of $53,500. and that the property of the congregation was now valued at the conservative figure of $350,000.

The pastors of Emanuel's have served in the following order: J. Q. Water, 1886-1889; C. W. Jeffries, 1889; W. F. Ulery, 1890-1892; J. M. Hankey, 1892-1893; Jonathan Sarver, D. D., 1892-1895; Luther D. Reed, D. D., 1895-1902; Charles Krauth Fegley, 1902-1905; Benjamin F. Hankey, D. D., 1907-1930; G. Lawrence Himmelman, D. D., 1931-1950; Lester M. Utz, S.T.M., M.Ed., 1951 —.

Berkeley Hills United Lutheran 1947

(See Plate 5)

THE Berkeley Hills United Lutheran Church is located at 517 Sangree Road, Ross Township, in the hills about six miles north of Pittsburgh's famous Golden Triangle and about one mile east of McKnight Road where it is crossed by Seibert Road. Following World War II the growth of this suburban residential area was observed by the Superintendent of Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod, Dr. Donald Houser, who arranged to have it surveyed in August, 1946 by Seminarians Richard Rieber and Robert Kiefer. The results of this survey and the enthusiasm of Lutheran and non-Lutheran families for a church in this vicinity led to the inauguration of services on February 9, 1947 in the Berkeley Hills Fire Hall with 48 present under the leadership of the Rev. Hugh Warren. Both Sunday School and Church Services were held continuously from that day.

On April 13, 1947 at an Organization Service the Liturgy was read by the Rev. Herman Schmid, the sermon delivered by the Rev. Dr. John Knisely, the Prayer offered by the Rev. C. B. Daniels, the organization of the congregation presided over by Superintendent Houser, the Rev. Hugh Warren called as Pastor and greeting of Synod brought by President H. Reed Shepfer. A sound record of this service kept on 78 r.p.m. glass records. When the names of the charter members were inscribed in the Church Record Book the list began auspiciously with the families of the President of Synod, the Superintendent of Missions and the Pastor.

Representatives of the congregation were presented at the convention of the Pittsburgh Synod at First Lutheran Church, Butler, Pa., on Wednesday Morning, May 28, 1947. The congregation was received into Synod on April 25, 1948 by Dr. Shepfer at the Fire Hall. In addition to aid from the Synod and the Board of American Missions, the Berkeley Hills Congregation was supported for its first 24 months at the rate of $100 per month by the Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Perrysville Avenue, Pittsburgh, the Rev. John Knisely, D.D., Pastor.

The first catechetical class was organized by Pastor Warren on February 23, 1947. The first Daily Vacation Bible School was organized on June 9, 1947 and conducted at the Fire Hall for two weeks with an enrollment of 50. The Weekly Offering Envelope System was installed on July 6, 1947. An Aid Society, known as the Women's Federation, was organized on September 3, 1947 and served the congregation under that name until January 1951 when it adopted the name Women's Guild. The constitution was adopted March 7, 1947. The Luther League was organized on December 5, 1948.

On Passion Sunday, March 24, 1947, Pastor Warren announced that, with the aid of the Board of Synodical Missions and the Board of American Missions, the home at 503 Sangree Road had been purchased as a parsonage. Plans were soon initiated by the newly elected church councilmen with Dr. Elwood Bowman, Secretary of the Department of Church Extension and Finance of the Board of American Missions, and with their Architect, Arthur Martsolf, for a colonial style brick church to provide a sanctuary and educational facilities.

Early in July a plot of ground at 517 Sangree Road with approximately five acres, 200 feet wide and 1000 feet deep, was secured as the site for the church. Excavation for the basement began the last week in August, 1947. Construction on the new church began March 23, 1948. The cornerstone, fashioned from a stone in a barn on the property of Mr. Alfred Hodil, was laid at a special service on Sunday, June 27, 1948 at which time the Rev. Carl Knisely of Latrobe was the preacher. The first service was held in the new church on Sunday, October 3 and the building dedicated at a special service on Sunday afternoon, October 31, 1948

with President H. Reed Shepfer as the preacher. The cost of ground and building totalled $58,000.

Pastor Warren resigned June 30, 1949 to assume special duties with the Board of Synodical Missions. In his ministry of 2 years, 6 months he had brought the congregation into life, saw it established at a permanent location with its first building unit, received 124 members and saw its membership reach a growth of 100 communing members. Many of the congregation's auxiliaries and traditions were established.

The Rev. Wm. F. Pfeifer of First Church, Leechburg, Pennsylvania was called to become pastor of Berkeley Hills Church and began his ministry September 25, 1949. He was installed on October 23, 1949 with his brothers, Pastors H. Wahl Pfeifer and H. Edmund Pheifer as liturgists and his father, Pastor Wm. F. Pfeifer, Sr., as the preacher. The Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, officiated. Through Pastor Pfeifer's ministry the congregation continued to grow in numbers and in spirit.

Work on the completion of the basement, which had been left unfinished upon the occupancy of the building for economy's sake, progressed steadily on weekly men's work nights. The Women's Guild contributed substantially each year for the payment of materials.

A Baldwin Electronic Organ was purchased at a cost of $2,040 and installed for use on Easter Day, 1951. It was dedicated May 27 at a Vesper Recital by the Rev. Algred Hamer, Organist at Trinity Cathedral. On September 30, 1951 Pastor Pfeifer submitted his resignation as pastor of the congregation effective October 30 to become pastor of First Church, Greensburg, Pa. In his ministry of 2 years, 1 month, he received 122 members, brought the congregation to a communing membership of 169 and firmly established a creditable tradition of Christian stewardship.

The Rev. Harry S. Bowman of St. Paul's Church, Corry, Pa., accepted the call of the congregation as of March 1, 1952. He was installed at a Lenten Service on Wedneseday, March 19, by the Rev. G. Lawrence Himmelman, President of the Pittsburgh Synod.

A Women's Missionary Society was organized at the parsonage on October 30, 1952. On March 24, 1953 the Couples Club was organized for the promotion of Christian fellowship among adults of the church and community. The continued growth of the congregation made it advisable on March 23, 1953 to inaugurate a second service each Sunday morning at 8:30 A. M. as a duplicate of the 11 o'clock service.

On September 28, 1952, at a special congregational meeting, the construction of a permanent parsonage was authorized at a cost of $21,000. It was to be located at the rear of the church grounds. Ground was broken for the parsonage on December 11, 1952. The building was completed and dedicated following the 11 o'clock service at a special ceremony at the parsonage on April 26, 1953. The pastor and his family occupied the parsonage on May 14, 1953.

In the late summer and early fall of 1954, the sanctuary of the church was redecorated and the temporary benches, which had served as pews since the church was occupied, were replaced with permanent colonial type pews. Services of Redication were held October 24, 1954 and during subsequent weeks Pastors Warren and Pfeifer were entertained as guest preachers. The continued growth of the church made it necessary to add another candlelight service on Christmas Eve 1954 The congregation assumed self support as to salary aid on December 31, 1955.

At the time of this writing, late spring of 1956, Pastor Bowman has begun his fifth year as pastor of the congregation. Work nights have nearly completed the church basement. The parking lot, 200 x 400 feet, is finish-graded and stoned. The southern boundary line of the church property, a distance of 1,000 feet, has been bordered continuously with evergreens. The Ministry of the Word and Music have kept pace with the growth of the congregation with multiple services, five choirs and 100 singers. The Vacation Bible School enrolls 200 pupils in addition to 30 on the Staff. The Sunday School, one department of which meets in the parsonage basement, has grown to 320 and taxes every available facility of the church. The congregation takes pride in her benevolence record which includes 100% apportionment payments every year since her organization. Pastor Bowman by mid 1956 had received 292 members. The communing membership of the church stands at this time at 335 souls.

Blairsville Hebron 1827

HEBRON Evangelical Lutheran Church of Blairsville was formally organized 130 years ago during the term of John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States. Blairsville, an active commercial center at that time due to its location on the Hollidaysburg and Pittsburgh Turnpike and the Pennsylvania Canal, drew many pioneers to the banks of the Conemaugh to work and live. Among these early settlers were a number of people of the Lutheran faith.

Services were held for these Lutherans prior to the organization of the church by the Rev. Nicholas G. Scharretts, Pastor of the German Lutheran Church of Indiana. Soon it became evident that a congregation should be formed by the local group, so, with the sponsorship of the German Lutheran Church of Indiana, Rev. Scharretts organized them into the first distinctly English Lutheran Church west of the Allegheny Mountains. The date of formation was July 1, 1827.

Some interesting history of Hebron Lutheran Church is recalled. Members of the first congregation, though small in number, were ardent in their zeal to have a growing, vibrant church.

Shortly after the organization of the congregation, work was started on the erection of a church building. The first building situated on N. Walnut St. was built of logs at a total cost of $1,000.00. While the church building has long been gone, a small cemetery remains at the original plot. A good Baptist, Mr. Jacob Altman, was a great help to the congregation in erecting the original building. Also, due to his efforts, the first church bell was secured. Mr. Altman joined the church soon after the dedication.

The original congregation was soon greatly enlarged and use of the First Presbyterian Church was obtained for the Communion Service in 1833. In 1835, Henry Graff, an elder of the church, donated two building lots at the corner of Campbell and Liberty Streets where a new church edifice was to be erected. Preparations were started at once, but before the building was completed, Rev. Scharretts, the beloved pastor, passed away. This cast a gloom over the congregation and many became discouraged and drifted away. However, Mr. Graff kept the majority of the people together and, about a year later, a new pastor, the Rev. Jacob Medtart, assumed charge.

The new church was of brick exterior and was 44 by 62 feet in size. The greatest credit for its successful completion goes to Mr. Graff and also to the same church elder for his persistence in keeping the congregation together during its struggle

without a minister. The church proper, although remodeled several times, still uses the structure built at this time.

Rev. Medtart served from March 1, 1836 to May 12, 1839 when he accepted the Indiana charge. His successor, Rev. Augustus Babb, D. D., was one of the most successful pastors that the church has known. Through his efforts, the congregation grew to 250, but just when the tide of prosperity seemed most full, the era of emigration set in, and many of the most ardent supporters of the church moved to the West. In 1850 fifteen families moved to the vicinity of Polo, Illinois, among them the family of Henry Graff. The congregation here suffered from the loss in the ranks. In recent years, however, the numbers of families belonging to the church have increased and, at the present time, the congregation enjoys a full program of activity.

From 1827 to 1842 this church was in the fellowship of the West Pennsylvania Synod. But on May 26, 1842 a conference held in Hebron Lutheran Church resulted in the formation of the Allegheny Synod, to which it belonged until 1887. In that year together with other Indiana County Churches, Hebron united with the Pittsburgh Synod where it still remains in the Greensburg Conference.

Of course many improvements have been made in the church property during the years. A brick parsonage was erected during the pastorate of J. J. Suman. Renovations of the church were made in 1887, during the pastorate of Michael Colver. A Moller organ was installed during W. Blair Claney's pastorate, 1921-1928. Part of the outside was re-bricked and the interior renovated in 1955.

Hebron is at present serving more families than ever before in its history. The communing membership at present is 481 and the baptized membership is 694.

Through the years the following men have gone into the ministry from Hebron: Daniel Smith Altman, H. L. Chapman, William H. Wynn, John W. Myers, W. Blair Claney, Jr., John B. Hanks, and John T. Peace, Jr., Miss Ruth Goff, daughter of a former pastor, is a deaconess and Miss Mildred Johnson is now attending Roanoke College training to be a deaconess.

Pastors who have served Hebron are: N. G. Scharretts, 1827-1836; Jacob Medtart, 1836-1839; August Barr, D. D., 1839-1845; Peter Sahm, 1845-1848; A. B. Bosserman, 1848-1852; G. M. Pile, 1853; William Kopp, 1853-1858; John J. Suman, 1858-1861; Henry Peck, 1861; Samuel Aughey, 1861-1863; J. R. Williams, 1863-1867; S. P. Snyder, 1867-1869; Augustus Babb, 1870-1875; C. L. Streamer, 1876-1878; C. M. Stock, 1878-1880; Michael Colver, 1881-1889; F. H. Crissman, 1905-1909; W. J. Bucher, 1909-1913; W. Roy Goff, 1913-1918; J. M. Lotz, 1918-1919; W. Blair Claney, 1921-1928; Edgar B. Hanks, 1929-1936; W. W. Zundel, 1936-1943; John L. Reiner, 1943-1946; James N. Frank, 1946-1949; Robert C. Klingensmith, 1950-1953; and R. H. Bartley, 1953-1957, and Paul A. Hoch, 1957 —.

Braddock Bethany 1888

BETHANY Church is the product of the merger established by the decree of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, May 18, 1921, uniting First Church and Trinity Church as one corporation. The history of the two merging churches, however, covers a period of more than thirty-three years, during which they preserved a separate existence. Members of the Lutheran Church drifted into Braddock from the time of the founding of the Edgar Thompson Steel Works at Bessemer, but not in such numbers as to warrant the organization of a church until 1886. Prior to that time the field was canvassed by pastors of the General Council, but they were disappointed with the results.

The chief credit for the first organization is generally given to the families of Jacob Hoffman and George Day. Mr. Hoffman appealed to the Southern Conference of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod, which body requested the missionary superintendent to visit the field. Rev. Irvine accepted the invitation, rented a hall for services, interested a number of families, and organized a congregation of eighteen members August 15, 1886. Two weeks later he presented a constitution for the "First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Braddock", which was adopted and signed by twelve of the eighteen founders.

These did not represent the full strength of the mission, since there were a number of others ready to unite with the new congregation as soon as they could secure letters. The people were enthusiastic for the new venture, believing that it would be but a short time until they would grow into a strong congregation. But they learned that their unity was more apparent than real on the day of their first communion service. One of the members arose and moved that the church unite with the Pittsburgh Synod, then connected with the General Council. The motion was ruled out of order on the ground that it required a change of constitution and legal advance notice. This caused the meeting to break up in confusion, and led to the organization of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Braddock, February 8, 1887.

Of the nineteen charter members of Trinity, special mention is due John B. Swem, who conducted a Sunday School in his home a long time and then served as the superintendent of the church school until the day of his death, April 10, 1900. The first Pastor of Trinity Church was Rev. Elmer F. Krauss, who served a large mission field consisting of Homestead, McKeesport and Braddock, July 3, 1887 to January 1, 1889, when the parish was divided and the pastor assigned to Homestead.

The First English Church remained under the pastoral care of the Rev. Isaiah Irvine, who effected a complete reorganization of the congregation, Dec. 5, 1886. Rev. Luther M. Kuhns was commissioned by the Board of Home Missions of the General Synod as the first regular pastor January 1, 1887. To guard against "future panics" a charter was secured June 27, 1887.

The natural antagonism between the two churches was shared by their respective synods. A protest was sent to the General Synod Mission Board, claiming the field as General Council territory. That Board was on the point of withdrawing its missionary, when the local General Synod men raised such a storm of counter protest that missionary aid was continued. First Church was supported by the General Synod Board from 1887 to 1892, when it assumed self support in order to secure a separation from Mt. Carmel Church of Upper Turtle Creek. This action was premature, however, and it was once more received as a mission from 1894-1901.

Trinity Church was a mission of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Council 1887-1918, when Pastor S. K. Herbster brought it to the position of self support.

The following pastors served the two churches during the pre-merger years:

General Council Line — First — Isaiah Irvine (supply), 1886-1887; Luther M. Kuhns, 1887-1888; Charles Reinewald, 1888-1892; A. H. Spangler, 1892-1893; Harry Lee Yarger, 1893-1895; Ira M. Derrick, 1895-1898; William J. Bucher, 1898-1909; S. T. Himes, Ph.D., 1910-1914; Curwin H. Stein, 1915-1923.

General Synod Line — Trinity — Elmer F. Krauss, 1887-1889; R. R. Durst (supply), 1889-1890; Samuel R. Elson, 1890-1891; Supplies 1891-1900; Earnest A. Trabert, 1900-1902; William E. Bauer, 1902-1909; William A. Zundel, 1909-1913; Samuel K. Herbster, 1913-1920; D. M. Kemmerer (supply), 1920-1921.

It will be noted from the above record that Trinity Church was served by supply pastors from 1891-1900. This was due to serious troubles that arose during the pastorate of the Rev. S. R. Elson, which almost destroyed the congregation.

But for the fact that a valuable lot had been secured for the church at an early day, it is quite probable that the mission would have been abandoned. This lot was bought for $1500 in 1888 when $500 of the purchase price was paid by members and friends of the mission. Two years later, by the aid of generous friends, the balance was paid. At the time of the merger this ground with its improvements was valued at $18,800. In 1898 the Synod determined to help Trinity by assisting in the erection of a Chapel. The Chapel was erected at a cost of $1700 and the plans were published in the minutes of the Pittsburgh Synod for the guidance of mission churches. This chapel was dedicated by Dr. Edmund Belfour, July 9, 1899.

Through the efforts of the Rev. John Welfley, a member of the congregation, a pipe organ was secured from Andrew Carnegie. During the pastorate of Rev. W. A. Zundel a parsonage was erected on the rear of the church lot at a cost of $4000.

First Church was not so fortunate in the selection of a building site. Two sites were considered, one on Fifth Street at $1500 and the other on Fourth at $2000. The latter was much the better site, but the cheaper lot was chosen. The church was built by Mr. Steiner, and the basement occupied for the first time, April 13, 1890. This church was built of frame at a cost of $4500. The completed church was dedicated by Pastor Charles Reinewald June 15, 1890.

After the merger of the two Pittsburgh Synods, November 18, 1919, the two Braddock congregations began to discuss the possibilities of merger. The difficulties in the way created by many years of antagonism, were great, but not insurmountable. A series of "Merger Propositions" were submitted by the President of the Synod and finally agreed to by both congregations, only a few minor changes being made by First Church. These amended propositions called for a committee on ways and means consisting of six members from each congregation. The joint committee held several meetings before they were able to come to an agreement. Both parties learned that mutual concessions were necessary in order to effect that merger. The use of the Common Service Book was readily agreed to, but the method of administering the Sacrament of the Altar caused much difficulty. Conferences were continued until an agreement was reached. Robbin B. Wolf was retained as attorney to secure the order of the Court that would unite the two congregations. The decree was signed May 18, 1921, when the work of the committee on ways and means was approved. Its members were duly elected to serve as the first church council of Bethany Church.

The constitution and by-laws recommended by the United Lutheran Church were adopted, with a few minor changes to suit local needs. Rev. C. H. Stein was elected and installed as the first Pastor of Bethany. He served the congregation until August 1, 1923. Shortly before the work of the committee on ways and means

had been completed, the trustees of First Church were authorized to purchase the property on the corner of Fourth and Mills Street, 101 x 140, at a cost of $18,000. A large brick duplex house located on this property was occupied by the pastor. The total net assets of the two congregations on entering the merger were $38,748. The total membership was classified as 385 communing, 455 confirmed, 660 baptized.

The Rev. J. Paul Harman began his work October 15, 1923. Pastor Harman came from Salem, Ohio. His fruitful pastorate saw new members added to the church and the auxiliaries strengthened. The Missionary, the Aid, the Martin Luther Bible Class, the Luther Leagues, the Mission Circle, the Scouts, the Church School prospered. In 1926 contributions averaged $62.70 per communing member.

The greatest result in these years was the building of the new church edifice. During the pastorate of Rev. S. T. Himes it was seen that a new building would be needed. A building fund was started. In the pastorate of C. H. Stein the effort was continued effectually. The merger brought the need closer. In 1925 a new site at the corner of Camp Avenue and Fifth Street was purchased at a cost of $12,000. The services of O. M. Topp, a church architect, were secured and plans were developed for the new building. Ground was broken March 21, 1926. On Sunday afternoon June 13, 1926, the cornerstone was laid following services and an address by the Rev. A. J. Holl, D.D. The church was dedicated May 15, 1927, the sermon being preached by the Rev. Ellis B. Burgess D. D., President of the Pittsburgh Synod.

The motives used in designing the structure were adapted from the early English type of Gothic architecture, the special details of the exterior design, being the main entrance and the rose window directly above it. This entrance is located on Camp Avenue. The width of the building across the front is 48 feet. The width across the main auditorium is 42 feet. The width across the chancel end is 60 feet. The total length of the building is 125 feet 7 inches. The main floor has an auditorium 40 feet wide and 63 feet long. It has one wide center aisle and two cloistered side aisles. It also has two transepts. There is a gallery located over the narthex. The seating capacity is 450. The exterior of the building is faced with dark brown and red vitrified brick. The trim is Indiana limestone. The basement is devoted to S. S. and Social activities. There is a sub-basement for heating.

In the ministry of Pastor Harman there was a vitality that particularly appealed to the manpower of the church. He organized and taught a Bible Class for men which grew to number more than 100 members. Pastor Harman closed his ministry at Bethany August 31, 1932. Total property valuation at this time was $97,000.

November 20, 1932 the pastorate of Rev. Raymond N. Stumpf began. These were hard years as they were the years of the financial depression. Before the parish was the final responsibility of paying the remaining indebtedness when money was scarce. This again was an era of real consecration. At the time the church indebtedness was $28,130, interest charges alone amounted to $1600 a year.

By the Tenth Anniversary of the Dedication of the new church, Whitsunday 1937, an effort was being made to conclude the indebtedness. This was also the Golden Anniversary of the merger churches, Trinity and First. On January 21, 1945 the parish saw the conclusion of the church debt and the mortgage was burned. World War II left its mark on Bethany. Sons and daughters responded to their country's call. Two made the supreme sacrifice: Caroll C. Charles and John Rudolph. One of the last events in the pastorate was the selling of the parsonage property at Fourth and Mills Street, to make way for a new parsonage which was needed. Communing members now were 379 and June 12, 1947 concluded this able pastorate, 15 years, the longest pastorate to date in the parish history.

Pastor Paul M. Scholl was installed at Bethany November 23, 1947. Tasks before the new pastor were the comfort of souls, the preaching of the Gospel and the purchasing of the new organ and the building of the new parsonage.

When Bethany was built the Carnegie organ from Trinity was reinstalled in the new church, where it served 21 years. The dream for a new organ was fulfilled June 6, 1948 when the new Moller organ was dedicated. Its 1500 pipes were set in the organ loft over the study. Its manuels were built to conform with the standards approved by the American Guild of Organists. The organ cost $13,000.

The new parsonage at 508 Camp Avenue was dedicated February 12, 1950. It is a modern home of eight rooms, built to conform with the architectural style and material of the church, which it adjoins. The parsonage was built at a cost of $22,551. The parsonage mortgage was burned January 1, 1956. (At this time we were debt free and had an endowment. Our total property and land valuation is $154,000.)

The Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church was observed Sunday October 12, 1952. By this time general extensive repairs were necessary for the church property. A new gas fired heating system was installed in the sub-basement, Mastic floors were installed in the S. S. rooms, exterior walls were repointed, the roof was repaired, the building redecorated, the plumbing replaced, and some new furniture was acquired. A survey of church receipts in the eight years from 1948 to 1955 shows Current receipts as $141,407 and Benevolence receipts $54,359 or a total of $195,756. The communion average over these eight years was 347. Thus over an eight year period the average giving per communing member was $70.31 per year.

June 4, 1950 was the date of the ordination of the first son of Bethany to enter the Gospel Ministry, Walter Charles Koehler, Jr. Thiel student, Earl Runge, is also studying at present for the ministry.

Bethany is becoming surrounded with suburban communities in which many of our younger members are finding homes. Every mission church in the area has young men and women from Bethany taking places on Church Councils and Teaching Staffs. This gives us great pride.

Pastors who have served Bethany since the merger are: C. H. Stein, 1921-1923; J. Paul Harman, 1923-1932; Raymond N. Stumpf, 1932-1947; Paul M. Scholl, 1947-1958.

Brick Church St. John's 1848

THE name St. John's does not appear on the records of the Pittsburgh synod until 1848. It can be assumed, therefore, that it was organized in that year. Rev. Henry Esensee began preaching in private homes around 1843. The first church building was erected in 1850 on land secured from John Schott, Jr., for which reason it was commonly known as Schott's church. The cornerstone was laid by Henry Esensee June 6, 1850.

When Rev. Esensee was deposed from the ministry in 1851, Rev. Michael Schweigert took up his unfinished task and dedicated the completed church, November 8, 1856. It was a rough frame church with few conveniences, 29 x 32, with an old fashioned high pulpit in one corner.

In 1867 the large parish of six churches served by Pastor J. H. Wright was divided, leaving the Crooked Creek Parish, composed of St. Michael's, Bethel, and St. John's churches without a pastor. Both General Synod and General Council pastors were anxious to secure this parish. St. Michael's favored the General Council, but Bethel and St. John's favored the General Synod. Bethel withdrew from the parish in order to secure the services of a General Synod pastor, but St. John's remained with St. Michael's and was served by the same pastors.

In 1880 a dispute arose and the officers of the congregation locked the church doors against Pastor Mueller and invited Rev. G. W. Leisher of Kittanning parish to supply them. In 1881 St. John's united with St. Thomas and Mt. Union to form the Elderton Parish. They extended a call to Rev. R. B. Starks at an annual salary of $400.

At a congregational meeting, April 16, 1881, the church decided by a vote of 17 to five to unite with the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod. This was a small vote, however, and the minority was not satisfied. On December 22, 1883 an agreement was made between Pastor Starks, representing the General Synod and Pastor Earhart, representing the General Council that the church would be used by both parties on alternate Sundays.

There was, however, contention over this agreement by the two parties; and the General Synod party finally rescinded it August 11, 1889. The General Council party was locked out of the church. The latter then appealed to the civil court. On January 16, 1890 a summons in equity was served upon the pastor and officers of the General Synod congregation by the sheriff. The property, by court decision, was given to the plaintiffs. However, the General Synod congregation was permitted to hold services in the church for a limited time because of their part in building it. Their last services was held by Rev. S. V. Dye April 9, 1893.

The General Synod people then transferred their place of meeting to Rockville and organized St. Matthew's church. During the pastorate of Rev. D. D. Miller, St. John's recovered a measure of her former strength, but the location midway between St. Michael's and St. Matthew's was not advantageous. Only fifty members were reported in 1920.

Pastor Blank, in 1956 could report no addition to the history of this church Communing membership in 1956 was 108.

Pastors who have served the parish are: Henry Esensee, 1848-1851; Michael Schweigert, 1852-1858; David Earhart (supply), 1858; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1859-1865; J. H. Wright, 1865-1867; Jonathan Sarver, 1868-1872; Philip Doerr, 1873-1877; W. A. C. Mueller, 1878-1880; R. B. Starks, 1881-1885; David Earhart (G.C.), 1883-

1887; Samuel Krider (G. S.), 1886-1889; R. G. Rosenbaum (G. C.), 1887-1892; J. W. Tressler (supply for G. S.), 1889; S. V. Dye (G. S.), 1890-1893; D. D. Miller, 1892-1901; W. Yeisley, 1902-1910; J. N. Wetzler, Ph. D., 1911-1918; R. W. Yeany, 1918-1920; G. W. W. Amick, 1921-1926; Theo. Hoffmeister, 1927-1936; Charles Pryor, Jr., 1936-1942; J. Earl Reed, 1943-1951; Charles H. Zacher, 1951-1954; Paul B. Blank, 1955-1958.

Brick Church St. Matthew's 1894

THE early history of St. Matthew's is found in St. John's where the fathers worshipped from 1848 to 1893. The synodical controversy caused the split within St. John's. When the court gave the General Council party the right to the property, August 1, 1892, the General Synod people transferred their place of worship to Rockville. S. V. Dye who was pastor at the time of this court decision resigned in 1893, and all plans for building were postponed. When Dr. William Hesse became pastor of Elderton Parish, he learened of the troubles of St. John's. He preached in the Rockville schoolhouse, January 13, 1894. A congregational meeting was called at the same time, when it was decided to reorganize the congregation as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of the General Synod. A few weeks later the old St. John's constitution was rescinded, and the congregation reorganized as St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid June 21, 1894, and the building was dedicated, April 28, 1895. Dr. Hesse resigned October 20, 1894, and was succeeded by Pastor C. M. Wachter March 10, 1895, so that the first named laid the cornerstone and Pastor Wachter dedicated the church. The success of this building venture inspired the congregation, and the membership was increased to 125 in a short time. The Sunday School was organized on April 7, 1895, and had a proportionate growth. From 1903 to 1909 St. Matthew's and Bethel constituted a parish; from 1909-1914 St. Matthew's was connected with Wickboro; from 1915 to 1919 it was connected with St. Paul's Church of Kittanning; since 1920 it has been connected with Brick Church Parish.

On March 9, 1947 the building dedicated in 1895 was completely destroyed by fire. The present building was erected in 1947.

At public auction on November 20, 1955 St. Matthew's purchased the Rockville School property. This consists of 56 perches, and will be used for parking space.

The following pastors have served St. Matthew's: William Hesse, 1894; C. M. Wachter, 1895-1898; J. E. F. Hassinger, 1889-1903; E. F. Dickey, 1903-1909 L. W. Walter, 1909-1911; W. R. Goff; 1911-1913; J. E. Lowe, 1914; C. H. Tilp, 1915-1917; E. E. Oney, 1917-1919; R. W. Yeany, 1919-1920; G. W. W. Amick, 1921-1926; Theo. Hoffmeister, 1927-1936; Charles Pryor, Jr., 1936-1942; J. Earl Reed, 1943-1951; Charles H. Zacher, 1951-1954; Paul B. Blank, 1955-1958.

Brick Church St. Michael's 1806

IT was probably in the summer of 1800 that John M. Steck began preaching to the families of this vicinity. They were mainly Germans from Northhampton County. An organization was formally effected in 1806.

The oldest record bears the date of July 19, 1807, when Daniel Schrecongost was baptized. The first recorded communion was held, June 10, 1810, when 40 persons received the sacrament. Their first church was a rude log structure, built on a commanding knoll of the George P. Schaeffer farm about the year 1820. For ten years the congregation worshipped here and laid their dead in the adjoining cemetery, with no title to the ground save that which the honor of the donor assured. On August 25, 1830 he conveyed five acres and eight perches of ground to the trustees of The German Evangelical Lutheran and the German Reformed congregations in the vicinity of Crooked Creek in Kittanning, Allegheny, and Plum Creek Townships for one dollar. The church was dedicated St. Michael's, September 16, 1832. The site of this old church is marked by a sun dial monument, which was dedicated by Pastor R. W. Yeany September 15, 1920.

In order that more regular services might be secured, St. Michael's united with three other churches of the county in a petition to the ministerium of Pennsylvania for a pastor in 1817. Their call was answered by Rev. John Adam Mohler. The man to whom the congregation is chiefly indebted for its firm establishment was Pastor G. A. Reichert who served from 1825 to 1837.

Around 1850 the need for a new church became apparent, but old associations were such that it was not easy to relocate. Anthony Helferich agreed to donate ground. An additional two acres were bought from King Woodward. The cornerstone of a brick church was laid September 4, 1852 and the building was dedicated October 23, 1853. The church was demolished by a storm July 29, 1860, but a larger church was dedicated by Pastor David McKee, July 29, 1861. Twice in later years the western end of the church was damaged by heavy storms, in 1880 and 1899, but in both cases it was quickly repaired.

The congregation, unlike St. John's, was little affected by the synodical controversy, since there was pronounced unity of sentiment in favor of the General Council. A parsonage was built in 1873 on ground secured from Mr. Artman.

The pastors who served this church were: J. M. Steck, 1800-1813; J. G. Lamprecht, 1813-1815; J. A. Mohler, 1817-1823; K. M. Zeilfels, 1824-1825; G. A. Reichert, 1825-1837; J. H. Bernheim, 1838-1846; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1846-1851; David Earhart, 1851-1860; M. Schweigert (German), 1851-1860; J. H. Wright, 1860-1861; David McKee, 1861-1866; G. A. Reichert (second term), 1866-1867; Johnathan Sarver, 1868-1872; Philip Doerr, 1873-1877; W. A. C. Mueller, 1878-1881; David Earhart (second term), 1882-1887; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1887-1892; D. D. Miller, 1892-1901; Wilson Yeisley, 1902-1910; J. N. Wetzler, D. D., 1911-1918; R. W. Yeany, 1918-1920; G. W. W. Amick, 1921-1926; Theo. Hoffmeister, 1927-1936; Charles Pryor, Jr., 1936-1942; J. Earl Reed, 1943-1951; Charles H. Zacher, 1951-1954; Paul B. Blank, 1955-1958.

Bridgeport, Ohio — Trinity — 1897

(See Plate 5)

THE founders of this congregation were members of the German Lutheran Church of Bridgeport who believed that more English services should be provided for their children. Miss Dora Heinlein was the leading spirit of an English Lutheran Sunday School which held its first session in Heinlein Hall, January 10, 1897. President J. C. Kunzmann of the Pittsburgh Synod later visited the field and tried to persuade the German Church to make some provision for English services. When this failed the establishment of an English Church became imperative.

On January 24, 1897 and again on February 7 of the same year Rev. F. W. Kohler, missionary superintendent, conducted Sunday School and worship services, but the time was not yet ripe for the establishing of a congregation. The Sunday School was continued under Albert Young and Student John A. Frischkorn conducted services for the people. The congregation was finally organized by F. W. Kohler with 18 members on July 19, 1897.

The first regular pastor was Rev. Ernest O. Graham who served from October 15, 1897 to February 1901. During all this time services were held in Heinlein Hall. A Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1897 with Mrs. Mary Baggs as president. The church property was secured during the pastorate of Rev. Adam C. Sumons. This property consisted of a corner lot improved with a good residence. On the rear of this lot a brick church was dedicated by Pastor Sumons, May 14, 1905. The vested choir under the leadership of George C. Meister was regarded at this time as one of the best in the synod.

During the pastorate of Rev. R. G. Rosenbaum, former missionary superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, the cellar under the parsonage was utilized as a church kitchen. After the untimely and sudden death of Pastor Rosenbaum, in 1919, there was a period of 18 months in which services were conducted by student Walter Winner and lay supply Landis. After the ordination of Walter Winner he became the sixth pastor of the church. Largely through pastor Winner's efforts the debt was reduced.

During the pastorate of Rev. Norman E. Kieffer the congregation felt the effects of the depression which made necessary much retrenchment and forced many economy measures. However, during this period the congregation was able to maintain a 100% benevolence record. With the exception of one year, it has been able to do this ever since. Pastor Kieffer established a periodical, "Trinity Tidings" which he published from 1933 to 1938.

Chester Bird's pastorate began in 1938 and terminated in 1952. From a communing membership of 139 the congregation in 1952 reached a communing membership of 249. A two-manual Kilgen pipe organ was purchased and asphalt tile floors were placed in church and Sunday School.

Pastor Adolphson became ill a year after assuming his duties at Trinity. For almost a year the pulpit was filled by Mr. Theodore Ehni. All questionable forms of money raising were given up during this pastorate.

During the pastorate of Louis Hetrick a youth program was developed which included a choir, League study, handicraft and recreation. A growing mission in St. Clairsville, Ohio is being prompted by Trinity.

The following pastors have served this church: E. O. Graham, 1897-1901; A. C. Sumons, 1901-1908; J. C. F. Rupp, 1908-1909; D. P. T. Crickenberger, 1909-

1917; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1918-1919; W. L. Winner, 1921-1923; E. P. Windman, 1923-1929; Norman E. Kieffer, 1929-1938; Chester S. Bird, 1938-1952; W. Frederick Adolphson, 1952-1955; Louis Hetrick, 1955 —.

Brighton Township Hope 1954

THE hope of Christian families for a church in Brighton Township was kindled in August, 1953, when the Rev. J. Ray Houser of Ohio View, under the auspices of the United Lutheran Church, began a survey to determine the need and interest of the community.

In January, 1954 the Synodical Board of Amercian Missions extended a call to Rev. Robert K. Brunk in behalf of the Planning Committee to be the Developer of this work. A House-Chapel was contracted for and on March 21, 1954 it was made available for Sunday School. The first worship service was held on Good Friday, April 16, 1954, when Dr. Donald Houser, Superintendent of Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod, administered the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At a special service on Easter Sunday morning, with Pastor Houser officiating, 15 children were baptized into the Christian faith.

On May 29, 1954 Pastor Brunk took residence and on May 30, 1954 regular worship services began. With marked enthusiasm families from throughout the township banded together and on October 3 their formal organization as the Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church took place in the Consolidated School. Over 300 persons witnessed this venture in faith move forward with 129 charter members. An attendance of 154 at the communion service, October 10, 1954 prompted the establishment of two worship services each Sunday in the chapel which only accommodates 100 persons. The first church council was elected October 17, 1954.

The congregation witnessed the organization of the Women of Hope on May 17, 1954, the Youth of Hope on November 7, the Men of Hope on March 7, the Ambassadors for Christ for lay evangelism on March 24, and the Intermediate Luther League on February 20, 1955.

To replace the well used army field organ the congregation purchased a beautiful church organ in December, 1954. An Adult Choir was organized to serve at the late service and a Youth Choir to serve at the early service.

The program of Christian Education has exemplified the spirit of the congregation in its desire to be true to the central and lasting purpose of the Christian Church in everything it does. On May 29, 1955 six young people of the first catechetical class were confirmed to church membership. On June 6, 1955 a two week Vacation Church School enrolled 128 youngsters and 30 staff members.

On August 10, 1955, under stimulation from the Board of American Missions, the church council initiated action to establish a Building Fund as a first step toward a great future.

Robert K. Brunk was the first pastor of this new congregation. He resigned in 1957. Robert E. Kromer began his pastorate in 1958.

Brookville Grace 1850

LONG before the white man arrived in the neighborhood of Brookville the Seneca Indians had made this area their hunting ground. They travelled through this section on their way to trade with the French at Fort Duquesne and later with the English. The first white men to come to this territory were David and John Meade who established the first trail over the mountains west of the Susquehanna River. They entered this section about 1787 and passed as far west as Meadville, the town which bears their name.

Preaching was held in this settlement as early as 1809 in the home of Peter Jones near the McCullough home. Robert McGarraugh was the first man to preach in the community.

Brookville was laid out as a town in 1830. Several buildings were erected in the town before this date. A pioneer jail building was erected in 1831 and this became the first place of preaching in the community. In 1832 the preaching services of the various churches were held in the courthouse, while Sunday School was held in the old jail.

It was not until 1835 that the first congregation was formed. This first group met in the barn of Abraham Hoch, one mile south of Sprankles' Mills. A student of theology, J. G. Young, came under the direction of Rev. John H. Bernheim of Elderton. This student, assisted by the nearby families, succeeded in erecting a log church one-half mile from Hoch's barn on the Boaz Blose farm. This served as a place of worship for ten years, when it was turned over for school purposes. A large frame house of worship was then built on the ridge, two miles south of Sprankles' Mills. This church was known as St. John's of the General Synod.

The second Lutheran church was organized in 1838. It too was called St. John's. The pioneer Lutheran preaching in Brookville was done by Rev. J. Young. He first preached on the second floor of the old jail, and in the homes of the members. Prior to this Rev. N. G. Scharretts, who served as a travelling preacher of the West Pennsylvania Synod in 1826 had preached in this community. Similar missionary service was rendered by Pastors Gustave Schulz and Henry David Keyl in 1829.

In 1844 student John Rugan came to Brookville in company with John Boucher. He preached his first sermon on the second floor of the old jail. Three years later he made such a strong plea for these Brookville Lutherans to the Alleghany Synod that missionaries were provided for them. Student A. C. Wedekind served in 1848, Rev. John B. Breckenridge in 1849, and Rev. Philip Sheeder, 1849-1852. Rev. Sheeder made Brookville his headquarters and organized Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church September 4, 1850.

A building site was secured and the contract let for the erection of a church for $1,000. When the contractor failed, it was relet for $1,450. The building was dedicated by Pastor Sheeder on August 1, 1852. A donation of $119.50 from the Alleghany Synod was considered a great encouragement.

The next pastor was Rev. Jacob H. Wright who was told on his way by stage that the church was about to be sold by the sheriff. While this proved to be false, it was indicative of the precarious existence of the church. Pastor Wright's mission field from 1853 to 1856 included Brookville, Emerickville, St. John's, and Grube's with Philippi, Bootjack, and Fairview as preaching points. In all these eight places there were only 105 Lutherans. They could not pay the $350 pledged for the pastor's salary.

Pastor Jacob Singer who served from 1858 to 1859 led the church into the Pittsburgh Synod. The church was renovated in 1891 at a cost of $4,000, and rededicated by Pastor J. J. Kerr on January 31, 1892. Additional improvements were made during the pastorate of Rev. William Hesse, 1902-1907, which included the purchase of the frame parsonage. A new constitution was adopted, March 21, 1906, at which time the name of the congregation was changed from Zion to Grace.

During the pastorate of William H. Brown, 1920-1922, the church was remodeled to conform with Lutheran practices. Renovations that were intended to be nominal finally ran into an expense of $13,585. The church was rededicated by Pastor Brown April 9, 1922.

During the depression years, after the resignation of Rev. Paul Porath, 1935, the parish was vacant for many months. Only a few services were conducted by supplies until the Home Mission board offered to support the parish. The Rev. Robert Klingensmith was called in 1936. Many improvements were made on both church and parsonage.

In 1957 the baptized membership at Grace was 231 with a communing membership of 119. St. John's and Grace, Emerickville which were once a part of this parish have been taken from the synodical roll.

Pastors who have served this church are: Philip Sheeder, 1850-1852; J. H. Wright, 1853-1856; C. A. Fetzer (supply), 1857; Jacob Singer, 1858-1859; Joseph Welker, 1862-1866; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1867-1868; I. J. Delo, 1869-1872; J. M. Wonders, 1873-1878; S. S. Miller, 1878-1879; Lewis Hay, 1880-1881; Wilson Selner, 1881-1882; D. W. Leitzell, 1882-1886; J. E. Zerger, 1886-1887; J. J. Kerr, 1889-1894; F. H. Crissman, 1895-1896; G. W. Styer, 1886-1900; W. L. Leisher, 1900-1902; William Hesse, 1902-1907; W. W. Frey, 1907-1913; D. S. Weimer, 1914-1916; J. E. Lowe, Jr., 1916-1920; W. H. Brown, 1920-1922; R. F. Stolz, 1922-1924; L. J. Kaufman, 1925-1930; Paul Porath, 1930-1935; Robert Klingensmith, 1936-1938; Luther Paul Mueller, 1939-1943; A. C. Curran, 1944-1952; David Schmid, 1952-1956; Arthur Blank, 1956 —.

Brookville St. Matthew's 1873

PASTOR I. J. Delo began to hold services for the people of this vicinity as early as 1871. These services were held in a schoolhouse. A church was built a few years later at a cost of $2,200 and was dedicated by Pastor J. M. Wonders on January 31, 1875. The congregation was organized the day before the dedication.

In these early days the isolated position of the church made it difficult to serve. From 1876 to 1882 this congregation was affiliated with the Alleghany Synod. Since 1882, however, it has been a member of the Pittsburgh Synod.

Through the years St. Matthew's has remained a small congregation associated with the Brookville Parish. The property has been kept in good repair, though there has been little growth in membership. The 1957 confirmed membership had dropped to 62 and communing membership to twenty one.

Four men have gone into the gospel ministry from this small congregation: C. W. Barnett, Elder J. Himes, John B. Kniseley, and S. A. Earl Mohney.

The pastors who have served this church are: J. M. Wonders, 1875-1876; John L. Miller, 1876-1878; J. T. Gladhill, 1878-1882; W. E. Crebs, 1882-1883; J. F. Dietterich, 1884-1885; D. W. Leitzell, 1887-1896; I. P. Neff, 1898-1902; John Tom-

lison, 1902; William Hesse, 1903-1907; W. W. Frey, 1907-1913; D. S. Weimer, 1914-1916; J. E. Lowe, Jr., 1916-1920; W. H. Brown, 1920-1922; R. F. Stolz, 1922-1924; L. J. Kaufman, 1925-1930; Paul Porath, 1930-1935; Robert Klingensmith, 1936-1938; Luther Paul Mueller, 1939-1943; A. C. Curran, 1944-1952; David Schmid, 1952-1956; Arthur Blank, 1956 —.

Brownsville St. Andrew's 1926

THE building of the Monongahela Railroad and its shops, together with the development of the coal fields since 1900, drew many new people to the area of which the crossing of the Monongahela River by the National Old Trails Road is the hub. Among them were a goodly number of Lutheran — Slovaks and Germans mostly. Unfortunately measures to gather them into a congregation were long delayed. The result was that they either joined other churches or lapsed into indifference. Not until 1925 were steps taken to conserve Lutheran interests. Late in that year A. E. Simon, while serving as student pastor of Hope Memorial, Smithton, did some work in Brownsville. The members of the Luther Leagues of Smithton and West Newton spent Sunday afternoon, March 24, 1926 in canvassing the town. The Luther League of St. Paul's Uniontown, completed the canvass on April 1, 1926. In all seventy Lutheran families were found who were not connected with other churches. Of these seventeen persons signed a petition asking the Pittsburgh Synod to start a Lutheran Church in Brownsville.

The first service was held on May 2 in the Pennsylvania Hotel while it was occupied by the Y. M. C. A. The Rev. J. J. Myers, D. D., Missionary Superintendent, preached the sermon and Pastor Simon read the service. A congregation was organized with twenty-four charter members. During the ensuing summer a Sunday School and a Ladies' Aid Society were organized.

The Synodical Board of American Missions assumed responsibility for the mission and gave it a student pastor in the person of Guy M. Lubold. He served from May 9 to September 1, 1956. By making a grant towards salary, the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church made possible the calling of an ordained full-time pastor, the Rev. Frank H. Miller, who served from February 1 to July 1, 1927. Under the capable leadershin of the Rev. J. R. Nicholas the congregation grew and prospered. The constitution was adopted April 1, 1929. Incorporation was completed October 22, 1929, under the title of St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, South Brownsville, Pa. The same year a site was purchased from Manuel Sisk for $8500. located at 307 High Street.

The cradle of the congregation was the sometime bar room of a hotel during its occupancy by the Y. M. C. A. Here it worshipped until the spring of 1931 when, intolerable conditions having arisen, removal became imperative. There was a brief sojourn in Christ Episcopal Parish House. Then St. Ellien's Syrian Orthodox Church was rented. From April 27, 1931 to June 1, 1937, this was the home of the congregation. When removal again became necessary, it was to return to the Episcopal Parish House and to remain there until a permanent home was ready.

The Rev. John T. Zundel took charge on December 18, 1932. The way this young man took hold of this, his first parish, gave promise of a fruitful ministry, but that prospect was blasted by premature death on June 18, 1933. Another young pastor, Paul E. Walthour, fresh from the seminary, came to take his place on September 10. He labored faithfully and fruitfully until April 30, 1937.

The next choice of the congregation was the Rev. I. N. Dundore who took charge on July 25, 1937. Unsatisfactory quarters and more unsatisfactory hours of service created an acute building problem. The congregation had to have a home of its own, if it was to thrive or even survive. To that end the sale of "bricks" was undertaken which produced the modest nucleus of a building fund. An application to the Board of American Missions for a church extension loan of $5,000 was honored. The Synodical Board secured an additional loan of $1,000. With these resources the congregation set forth to put itself under roof. Mr. J. E. Martsolf of New Brighton, Pa., volunteered his services as architect. Three carpenters of Brownsville — William E. Miller, Lee R. Patton, Carl Harris — offered to build a concrete block shell for $6,324.45. The congregation voted to proceed and broke ground on July 31, 1938.

The men of the congregation joined by many friends followed up the ground-breaking with the excavating, all of which was done by hand. By the first of September the builders were able to take over. On October 30 the cornerstone was laid by Pastor Dundore, the Rev. J. R. Nicholas and the Rev. H. H. Will assisting. By March 1 the main floor was ready for occupancy. The congregation promptly took possession, the first service being held on March 5.

One room bounded by bare cement block walls and furnished with folding chairs and home-made chancel equipment was what the congregation started with. Dedication came on June 11, 1939 with the Rev. H. H. Bagger, D. D., President of Synod, preaching the sermon.

Hardly a year has passed since dedication without the achievement of some building project. First the narthex was added. Then stone facing applied. After that the interior was plastered and trimmed. New pews came next. At the same time the congregation took care of the pastor by securing a parsonage. By 1951 the congregation had paid off all its obligations and, accordingly, burned the cancelled debentures on October 14, when the Rev. G. L. Himmelman, President of Synod, preached the sermon. The congregation became entirely self-supporting in 1954.

Growth has been slow because during most of the years reviewed the field was plagued with industrial unrest punctuated by innumerable coal strikes. Now rapid depletion of the coal deposits and intensive mechanization of the mining process are depriving many people of employment and causing their removal. However, St. Andrew's is well anchored and confident of surviving the transition of its locale to a still unpredictable economy.

Pastors who served St. Andrew's are: Student G. M. Lubold, 1926; Frank H. Miller, 1927; J. R. Nicholas, D. D., 1927-1932; John T. Zundel, 1933; Paul E. Walthour, 1933-1937; I. N. Dundore, 1937 —.

Brush Creek Evangelical Lutheran 1773

(See Plate 6)

A FEW miles to the east of Brush Creek an older community known as the "Zion Settlement" had much in common, from a cultural and religious point of view, with the "Brush Creek Settlement". The two communities developed together, enjoying proximity and mutual advantages common to pioneer life.

Central in community life was the promotion of church services and the establishment of a school. The exact time of formal organization of these institutions in the "Brush Creek Settlement" is unknown. They were sponsored by laymen, and they were served occasionally by an itinerant missionary until a permanent pastor was available. Church services consisted of a song, prayer and the reading of an approved sermon. Both church and school were in charge of school masters, among whom were Michael Zundel and George Bushyager. As early as 1770 services were held in homes. Later services were held in the particular homes of the Davis and Loutzenhiser families and at Fort Waldhauer.

The first log schoolhouse which was built a short distance from the present church building was burned by recalcitrant Indians in 1781 or 1782. They then built a log church edifice in place of the schoolhouse and dedicated its use to both church and school purposes. The first Church and School edifice served the religious and educational needs of the community until 1819 or 1820. It was a structure of hewn logs, with only one door, and that at the gable end. The floor was of puncheon, the seats of hewn logs. There was no pulpit, no gallery, and a common table served as an altar.

It is very evident, that, for the first decade in the History of the Brush Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church, there were no pastors or missionaries to give direction to the development of the church. It was cultivated by the school masters and nurtured in the lives of children by parents and school masters. The school masters performed the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and, although we have no records, it is very likely that they administered the Sacrament of the Altar.

The years from 1782 to 1848 are best characterized as an era of Expansion and Growth. In this period the congregation was served by three Missionaries; Anton Ulrich Luetge, John Michael Steck and Michael J. Steck. In each pastorate there were distinct phases of development.

Anton Ulrich Luetge, the first Missionary pastor in Westmoreland County, served the Congregation from 1782 to 1791. He was born and educated in Germany. Migrating to America he resided in Eastern Pennsylvania for a few years. Accepting a Call to the Zions-Brush Creek Settlements as a layman, he was ordained privately. In 1785 he attended the meeting of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and asked to be received as an ordained minister. This request was denied on the ground that his ordination, which was private, had not been sanctioned by the Synod. However, in 1788, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania granted him a license to preach.

The fruitage of the labors of Anton Ulrich Luetge indicate that he was devoted to intensive teaching, preaching and the organization of congregations in settlements far removed from the Zion's - Brush Creek Settlements.

The successor to Anton Ulrich Luetge was John Michael Steck who accepted a Call in the summer of 1791, entering upon his work September 24, 1791. He was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, October 5, 1756. He was licensed to preach by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1784 and served parishes in Franklin County and Bedford County which now includes Somerset and Fulton Counties.

He travelled extensively, devoting much time and effort toward more complete organization and development of other congregations in Westmoreland County. So successful were his labors that when he attended the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on June 3, 1806, the Ministerium "Resolved that Mr. John Michael Steck shall be ordained this evening". He labored for thirty-eight years in the county, serving as pastor of the Brush Creek Church from 1791 until his death, July 14, 1830.

During the pastorate of John Michael Steck significant developments took place in the Brush Creek Church. First among these developments was the acquisition of a large tract of land. July 20, 1797, a certain David Marchand, conveyed to the trustees of the German Lutheran and Calvinist Reformed Congregations 182 acres of land for which the congregations paid 28 pounds, twelve shillings and six pence. Originally it was sold by the Government for about thirteen cents an acre. Following the Revolutionary War the land was valued and sold at 10 pounds for 100 acres. Attached to the Deed were specific conditions which would assure joint ownership of the land by the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations, with rights to be protected by trustees elected from each of the congregations.

The second significant development during this pastorate was the increase in population and its accompanying demand for a more commodious church and school. Yet, the church was there. It was determined to educate and minister to the spiritual needs of an increasing populace. By 1815 the congregation had enjoyed phenomenal growth in membership. The church building which was intended to serve both church and school purposes was no longer adequate. The congregations of the Brush Creek Church adopted a Union Constitution and decided unanimously to build a new church building.

August 17, 1816 the cornerstone laying was observed with appropriate services. The congregations executed a signed agreement.

From the contents of this agreement it appears that it was an instrument to (a) preserve the union of the congregations, (b) promote peaceful relationships between the two congregations, (c) minimize denominational identity by calling the new church "The Brush Creek Salems Church", (d) identify and guaranteeing equal rights of the congregations in the use of the Church Building, (e) prevent the use of the church building by undesirable, roaming preachers who flourished in the area.

In a study of the Deed that was granted when the congregations secured 182 acres of land from Dr. Marchand, several errors were detected. Among these errors was the failure on the part of the Deed to name trustees. Therefore, the congregations appealed to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania to name trustees and to grant permission to the congregations to sell a portion of the land. Under an Act of the Assembly dated, January 21, 1819 the Assembly named John Schrum and Adam Baughman as trustees, to hold in trust the land specified in the deed, and gave them authority to sell 82 acres. Portions of this land were sold at prices ranging from fifteen to nineteen dollars an acre.

The church building was completed and dedicated in 1820. The stone foundation was built upon solid rock and the exterior was constructed of red brick. The interior consisted of two stories, with gallery on three sides. There was a high pulpit of wine glass design patterned after the pulpits in churches of that day. There was no heating system and often fires were built just outside the church for people to warm themselves before and after services. The total cost of construction was $4500.00 or $5000.00.

A third significant factor in this Era was an awakening consciousness of Lutheranism on the frontier. Lutheran congregations had been established throughout the

frontier area. A few 'circuit riding' pastors sought to weld their interests in a fellowship that would lend encouragement and growth to the work of the church. The programs of the congregations needed to be integrated so that they could exert maximum influence with efficiency. In December 1812, pastors of the frontier met in special conference in Washington County with the Reverand John Michael Steck acting as Secretary. "These Conferences continued until 1818 when they culminated in the formation of the Ohio Synod." The Brush Creek Church was among the congregations that withdrew from the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and joined the Ohio Synod with which it remained affiliated until the formation of the Pittsburgh Synod in 1845.

In 1829, the Rev. Michael J. Steck, became an assistant to his father. He was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, May 1, 1793 and received his theological training from his father and the Rev. Jacob Schnee, pastor of the German Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1816 he was licensed to preach by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. Prior to becoming an assistant to his father he served a congregation in Lancaster, Ohio, for 12 or 13 years. Upon his father's death in 1830 he was called to become his father's successor, serving from eight to ten congregations within a radius of 30 miles from Greensburg, until his labors were interrupted by death, September 1, 1848.

The Brush Creek Lutheran Church had a communicant membership of at least 400 souls in the year 1848. As part of a larger parish and not able to enjoy the benefits of a pastor who could devote his time and ability to developing the resources and membership of the congregation, a turn in events was inevitable. This was hastened by controversy concerning the use of the German language in services of the church. As already indicated the Brush Creek Settlement was of German descent and the German language was the medium of speech throughout the Settlement for many decades.

To yield to the use of the English Language in the church services at Brush Creek was the cause of prolonged and bitter controversy. Both the Reformed and Lutheran pastors were sympathetic toward the movement for the use of some English in church services, but they were unsuccessful in helping the congregations solve this problem. The conservatism of the German Lutheran fathers was impregnable. During the vacancy which was caused by the death of the Reverend Michael J. Steck in 1848 the recently organized Pittsburgh Synod interceded in the interest of preserving the unity of the congregation. However, the Synod was unsuccessful in its attempt to have the congregation Call a pastor who could preach and minister in both the German and English Languages. By actual vote it was decided that the Brush Creek church was to remain purely German.

Internal strife reached its height of fury as the result of the election of a new pastor and a division of the membership of the Brush Creek Church took place Members who favored the English Lauguage as a medium for church services were incensed at the results. Efforts to effect a reconciliation failed and dissenters of the Brush Creek Church held a meeting in the schoolhouse at Adamsburg July 14, 1849. At this meeting a written protest addressed to the Council of the Brush Creek Lutheran Church was discussed and adopted. Another meeting was held July 28, 1849 at which time the constitution for congregations as recommended by the Pittsburgh Synod was adopted and the name of the new congregation chosen. The name that was unanimously chosen at this meeting was the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Trinity Church of the Borough and Vicinity of Adamsburg.

Approximately one half mile south of the Brush Creek Church, along the pike over which stage coaches traveled from East to West, one acre of land was

purchased from Joseph Walthour. A brick church was built and dedicated, December 13, 1850. For half a century this church ministered to the English speaking populace of the community. In February, 1891 and again in September, 1894 effort was exerted by the Pittsburgh Synod to re-unite the congregations. Both attempts failed. "As increasing provisions for English were made in the Brush Creek Church, the strength of the Adamsburg Church was weakened; and the last service was held in the latter, September 27, 1908. In 1919 the building was removed from the church property and the property was later sold.

From the time of the organization of the "Trinity Lutheran Church of Aadmsburg" in 1849 the following pastors served the congregation until 1881: John Rugan, 1849; Michael Eyster, 1849-1853; Milton Valentine, 1854-1855; W. F. Ulery, 1855-1863; Daniel Garver, 1863-1865; J. K. Plitt, 1866-1873; A. H. Bartholomew, 1874-1876; V. B. Christy, 1876-1881.

During the years of its existence the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Adamsburg remained faithful in its affiliation with the Pittsburgh Synod.

As already mentioned, the Reverend Jonas Mechling was chosen pastor of the Brush Creek Church in 1848 with the specific understanding that he was to preach only in German. It was at the beginning of his pastorate that the Brush Creek Church severed relationships with the Pittsburgh Synod and became affiliated with the Synod of Ohio. This relationship continued until 1875, when, during the pastorate of the Rev. J. S. Fink, the congregation returned to the fellowship of the Pittsburgh Synod.

From 1859 to 1865 the Rev. Jonas Mechling was assisted by his son the Reverend George W. Mechling who was largely responsible for the introduction of English services in the Old Mother Church at Brush Creek. In 1865, against protests from members of the congregation, he accepted a Call to Lancaster, Ohio.

Following the death of Reverend Jonas Mechling in 1868 a new parish was formed consisting of the Brush Creek Church, Hill's and Denmark Manor. This new parish called the Reverend J. S. Fink in 1868. He served until 1881 when he demitted the ministry.

From 1881 to 1908 the following pastors served both "Trinity Lutheran Church" of Adamsburg and the Brush Creek Church: E. G. Lund, 1881-1883; C. H. Hemsath, 1883-1886; C. S. Seaman, 1887-1889; George Seaman, 1890-1896; Philip Doerr, 1897-1908.

From internal strife, dissension, and controversy between the two congregations there were still other matters in the plight of the Brush Creek Lutheran Church.

The Pittsburgh Synod was organizing new congregations in various areas of the parish. The church had a mission to perform and the following new congregations were organized on territory of the Brush Creek Parish. Zion, Harrison City; Holy Trinity, Irwin; Unity, Manor; Evangelical Penn; Holy Trinity, Jeannette; and St. Mark's, Arona. These congregations have always been regarded as offspring of the old Mother Church at Brush Creek. Many of their members at the time of organization were members of the Brush Creek Church. This caused heavy losses in membership.

In these early years little attention was given to the development of Christian Stewardship. When there was needs for funds the congregations (Lutheran and Reformed) at Brush Creek appealed to the Trustees to obtain funds for repairs and improvements by selling property or mineral rights which were owned by the congregations. The trustees were authorized to sell coal under an additional

plot of 40 acres and 86 perches to the Penn Cas Coal Company, for which the congregations received $5399.90.

"On November 27, 1874 the Brush Creek Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery was incorporated; and to this corporation the trustees ganted a deed for 24 acres. This is a self-perpetuating corporation, and is not responsible to the church except for the fact that the five Reformed and five Lutheran directors must be members of the Brush Creek Church." Later, the coal under 32 acres of the land was optioned at $1000.00 per acre and the church farm consisting of approximately 70 acres was sold to the Cemetery Association. The immediate land surrounding the Church, and consisting of 3.6532 acres was retained by the congregations.

Meanwhile, a new alignment of congregations in the parish took place, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Penn and the Brush Creek Lutheran Church forming a parish. In 1888 the congregation built the parsonage at Adamsburg. In 1896 the Sunday School, which had been previously organized in "Trinity Lutheran" Adamsburg, was moved to the Brush Creek Church. During 1891 and 1892 the official bodies of the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations held a number of joint meetings with a view to absolving the union, but with no success.

The turn of the century brought a new and progressive era to the Brush Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church. With the gradual demise of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Adamsburg, many of the families returned to the Brush Creek Church. Since the original point of dispute, namely, the language problem, no longer existed, the Reverend Edgar H. Daugherty, D. D., devoted much time and attention to unifying the congregations in worship and service at the Old Mother Church. During this Era the congregation has been nurtured by good programs of Stewardship and Evangelism.

A new re-alignment of congregations in the parish was effected in 1909 and 1910, when on March 25, 1909 the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Penn severed parish relationship with the Brush Creek Church and the Unity Lutheran Church of Manor became a part of the Brush Creek Parish, in October 1910. This relationship continued until 1953, when, with the approval of the Pittsburgh Synod, each became a parish in its own area of responsibility.

By Proceedings in the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, at No. 43 February Term. 1813, the congregation was incorporated under the name, title, and designation of "Brush Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church" of Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County Pennsylvania.

From the Diary of Michael J. Steck as quoted in an address by a Great Grandson, Reverend J. A. Waters, August 1916 we note "In 1843 Brush Creek Lutheran Church gave for benevolence that year the sum of $1.43. The following year it grew to $3.13 . . ." for the year ending May 1, 1916 the congregation gave a total of $196.50 to all benevolences. There were at that time 270 confirmed members and 216 communing members. The year ending December 31, 1929 there were 339 confirmed members and 235 communing members with a total benevolence contribution of $2423.00. Ten years later, December 31, 1939 there were 287 confirmed members and 205 communing members with a total benevolence contribution of $1756. In 1949 there were 321 confirmed members and 257 communing members and benevolence contributions totaling $4421.00. At the end of 1955 there were 360 confirmed members and 312 communing members and total benevolence contributions amounting to $5489.00.

In August 1916 the Centennial Observance of the Laying of the cornerstone of the present church edifice was observed by a series of services in which both Lutheran and Reformed congregations participated.

Renovations and repairs of the church edifice have been cared for at regular intervals by the trustees, acting according to the instructions of the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations, working cooperatively. A program for additional construction to the church edifice was launched and discussed by the Lutheran Church Council and the Reformed Church Consistory over a number of years. However, agreement could not be achieved on this building venture. At a meeting of the Lutheran Church Council and the Reformed Consistory, March 12, 1951 "An amiable discussion was had concerning the building of a new church by the Lutheran Congregation on the grounds owned by both congregations." At another meeting of the Lutheran Church Council and the Reformed Consistory held October 10, 1951 the following arrangements were suggested as a tentative starting point for deliberation. (1) That the Evangelical and Reformed congregation pay the Lutheran congregation one half of the cost of our recently purchased organ. (2) The value of the present church to balance out the quick claim to the land on which the new Lutheran church could be built.

February 15, 1954, at a joint meeting of the Lutheran Church Council and the Reformed Consistory, Mr. Robert Carson, Attorney, presented an analytical survey, based upon a thorough study made by his offices, relative to the transactions of the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations of the Brush Creek Church since the year 1819. This illuminating survey revealed the possibilities of the congregations dividing the remaining property consisting of 3.6532 acres. This resolution was later presented to the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations for discussion and approval. Each of the congregations met separately, May 16, 1954 and adopted the resolutions.

In keeping with the resolutions so adopted, the duly elected trustees requested permission to divide equally the remaining property between the two congregations. This request was granted and a Deed for property consisting of 1.8266 acres was granted to each of the congregations.

Significant in the resolutions which terminated the union of these two congregations are as follows;

(1) both congregations were agreeable that "it is no longer advisable to use jointly . . . the present meeting house, due to the fact that changes in community size, congregational growth, and modern living, social, and religious conditions have rendered joint use of the present meeting house inadequate for the best religious development of the congregations, and that separate meeting houses will enure to the religious benefit of the congregations by enabling them to more fully and completely develop their religious programs, that it be the desire of this congregation together with the expressed desire of the Brush Creek Reformed Church, to continue meeting at Brush Creek and each to continue to worship on individual portions of the remaining tract, and that this action be taken concurrently with similar action of the Brush Creek Reformed Church . . .".

(2) "That no visible evidence of separation shall be erected, planted, or maintained along the dividing line between the two tracts".

(3) No date shall be set when the Lutheran congregation must vacate the present church building.

(4) Normal and ordinary maintenance of the present building shall be shared by each congregation as in the past until such time as the Lutheran Congregation vacates.

(5) The Lutheran Congregation shall receive the sum of $1500.00 as equity settlement from the Reformed Congregation on the date it moves into the new church edifice.

The building committee of the Brush Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church was reorganized and a layman, Mr. Earl R. Hebrank, was chosen chairman. After several consultations with the department of Church Architecture of the United Lutheran Church in America the chairman appointed various committees and put them to work.

September 12, 1954 the congregation approved a recommendation to employ the H. G. Wells organization to promote a program for financing the building of a church edifice. In October 1954 the program was promoted and $65,027.50 was received in cash contributions and subscriptions from members of the congegation.

April 13, 1955, Mr. Arthur N. Steinmark of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was employed as architect. In July 1955 a four page descriptive folder showing the proposed plans was edited and distributed to all members of the congregation. At a special meeting of the congregation, July 10, 1955, the plans were approved by the congregation.

The architect is now working on Plans and Specifications to be presented for bids from contractors in hopes that ground breaking for the new church edifice can take place in August, 1956. In 1958 Brush Creek dedicated its independent church. This is the first time in its long history that this congregation, one of the last union churches in the synod, has had a sanctuary of its own.

Pastors who have served Brush Creek are: Anthony Ulrich Luetge, 1782-1791; John Michael Steck, 1792-1830; Michael John Steck, 1830-1848; Jonas Mechling, 1849-1868; J. G. Fink, 1868-1881; E. G. Lund, 1881-1883; Charles H. Hemsath, 1884-1886; Charles S. Seaman, 1887-1889; George S. Seaman, 1889-1896; Phillip Doerr, 1897-1908; Edgar Daugherty, 1909-1941; Nelson G. Fattman, 1941-1953; Russell L. McCullough, 1953 —.

Butler First English 1843

THE oldest Lutheran congregation of Butler is St. Mark's, which was organized by Pastor . G. C. Schweizerbarth in 1822. In 1840 this busy pastor preached at eleven different places, but this number was soon reduced to Zelienople, Stone Church, and Butler. When the demand for English services arose in St. Mark's, Pastor Gottlieb Bassler was called as the assistant of Pastor Schweizerbarth, and organized the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Butler in St Mark's, January 16, 1843, with about 35 members. The first communion service was held, June 18, 1843, when fourteen were confirmed, and a number of members of St. Mark's communed with the new congregation.

For a few years the congregation worshipped in St. Mark's, only one service a month being held, since Pastor Bassler was not physically able to make more frequent appointments. The Germans made the proposition that, "if the English congregation would assume $500 of the debt on the church building, they might have the use of the church for ten years, at the end of which time the $500 would be refunded"; but Pastor Bassler was only able to raise $197, and the generous offer was declined. First Church gave Pastor Bassler an annual salary of $50 at this time, and the other churches of the parish did little better. The congregation was eager to secure a church, but did not have the money. Services were held for several years in the court house, or in other churches.

When the building question was taken up again in 1848, John Negley offered a site in the south end of town, and Michael Emerick another in the north end, and the latter was accepted. The work was not begun, however, until the spring of 1849, when a brick church, 40 x 50, was erected. This building, located at Church and North Streets, was dedicated by Pastor Bassler in September, 1849. It was during the early part of this pastorate that a company of pastors met in the humble lodging place of Pastor Bassler, and started the movement that resulted in the organization of the Pittsburgh Synod. Butler Parish is therefore regarded as the cradle of the synod. Pastor Bassler served the church from 1843 to 1854, with the exception of a short period between 1846 and 1848, when Pastor Elihu Rathbun had charge.

Among the experiences of the first pastorate was one of peculiar interest. Samuel Mohawk, an Indian, having murdered a mother and her four children, had been committed to jail to await trial. Pastor Bassler secured admission to this man's cell, and brought him to a sense of his sin. After satisfying his church officers that the man was a true penitent, he administered the sacrament of baptism, February 28, 1844.

In 1868 Butler was constituted a separated mission parish of the Pittsburgh Synod, and was brought to the position of self-support by Rev. J. Q. Waters. This pastor was responsible for the purchase of the Witherspoon Institute in 1876, which later furnished the site for the present church. This Institute had long been used for educational purposes, and was large enough to furnish a pastor's home as well as a place of worship. The size of the lot was 90 x 180. It was bought for $6,000, and remodelled at an additional cost of $1,700. After this work was completed a debt of less than $2,000 remained. The new place of worship was occupied by the congregation in August, 1876. When Pastor J. Q. Waters resigned September 1, 1884, Dr. D. Luther Roth was elected as his successor. One of the conditions under which Dr. Roth accepted the call was that the clerical robe should be used in all public services. This condition was accepted, and the robe was used for the first time on Palm Sunday of 1885. The claim is made that this was the first use of the clerical robe in any of the English-speaking churches of the Pittsburgh Synod. A second condition stated by Pastor Roth was that the salary of the pastor should be $800, payable semi-annually in advance. The congregation accepted the figure, but declined to pay for any work before it was finished. Pastor Roth served two pastorates in the church: 1884-1888, and 1894-1899.

During his second pastorate a large stone church, 76 x 116, with 96 foot tower, was erected and dedicated. The last service in the old building was held in May, 1897, and services were held in Wick's Hall during the period of building. The contract for the unfurnished building was let for $17,912. The cornerstone was laid August 15, 1897, and the beautiful structure dedicated by Pastor Roth, June 26, 1898. One of the great days in the history of this church was March 8, 1908, when the debt of $7,280 was cancelled, and an Estey pipe organ, presented by Reiber family in memory of Martin and Mary Reiber, was dedicated by Pastor Robert D. Roeder.

On January 10, 1919, this church was almost destroyed by fire. After the first shock of grief, the congregation responded nobly to the call of Pastor Frank C. Oberly and raised a reconstruction fund of $65,000. An examination showed that only a part of the walls would need to be rebuilt. The reconstruction plans included only a slight enlargement of the building, but a number of improvements to the interior. The church was rededicated by Pastor Oberly September 12, 1920. Before Pastor Oberly left for a new pastorate, all but about $10,000 of the great

building debt was paid off. In June, 1923, during Pastor Bagger's pastorate, the remaining debt was erased.

In 1925 the "James Quigley Waters Memorial Endowment Fund" was established. Mr. Edward Reiber was helpful and generous in the creation of this fund, and other members and organizations have contributed to the fund since that time. In 1926 the church purchased its present parsonage at 158 Oak Street for $11,000 and improved it to the extent of another $1,000. Pastor Bagger was elected to and accepted the presidency of the Pittsburgh Synod at its convention held at Wilkinsburg June, 1930. His was the longest pastorate of First Church to that date. The depression was greatly felt by the congregation and the church council had to adopt a "pay as you go and go as you pay policy." In 1936 when Pastor Oscar W. Carlson began his pastorate, the church's total indebtedness was $12,000 including an $8,000 mortgage on the parsonage, $3,000 bank loans, and $1,000 in unpaid bills. In December, 1940, the last dollar was paid and the church "debt-free" for the first time in several decades. Pastor Carlson resigned his pastorate on July 15, 1942.

After a vacancy of three months Pastor Paul E. Daugherty was called to the pastorate of the church. During this pastorate many were added to the confirmed and communing membership rolls of the congregation. In 1950 a financial campaign was inaugurated for the purpose of building a parish education unit. On January 1, 1956, $57,000 was on hand for such purposes. In the meantime, the urgent need for additional space in the Nursery and Beginners Departments demanded making classrooms out of the unused space in the furnace room. At the cost of $9,979 two adaquate rooms were constructed. These were first used on Promotion Day, 1952. The following year Carillonic Tower Bells and new chancel windows were dedicated as memorials along with the 110th Anniversary Program. Pastor Daugherty resigned on June 13, 1954, after eleven years of faithful service.

The parish was without a pastor for eleven months. The Rev. Paul L. Himmelman began his ministry at First Church on June 1, 1955. The long studied and proposed building program is just about ready to be launched after an intensive three-month study program in the fall of 1955. The congregation has defined its needs and will begin building in 1956. Two of the pastors of First Church closed pastorates in death: Enoch Smith, May 22, 1894, and Richard C. Rengier, January 1, 1913.

The pastors served in the following order: Gottlieb Bassler, 1843-1846; Elihu Rathbun, 1846-1848; Gottlieb Bassler (second term) 1848-1854; A. H. Waters, 1855-1861; J. H. Fritz, 1861-1869; L. H. Geschwind, 1870-1874; J. Q. Waters, 1875-1884; D. L. Roth, D. D., 1884-1888; G. E. Titzel, 1888-1891; Enoch Smith, 1891-1894; D. L. Roth, D. D. (second term), 1894-1899; T. B. Roth, D. D., 1900-1903; S. M. Mountz (assistant), 1900-1903; R. D. Roeder, 1904-1910; R. C. Rengier, 1911-1913; F. C. Oberly, 1914-1920; H. H. Bagger, 1921-1930; B. F. Bieber, D. D., 1931-1935; Oscar W. Carlson, D. D., 1936-1942; Paul E. Daugherty, D. D., 1943-1954; Paul L. Himmelman, 1955 —.

Butler Grace 1890

(See Plate 7)

DURING the year 1889 a number of General Synod Lutherans appealed to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod for the organization of a mission church in Butler. The first service was held in the Y. M. C. A. building, July 6, 1890, by the Rev. H. B. Winton, who also organized the congregation on August 31, 1890, with 31 charter members, and served as supply pastor until October 1, 1891. From the beginning the growth was both rapid and steady. The first regular pastor was the Rev. J. E. Maurer, who served from October 1, 1891 until January 1, 1893.

The congregation worshipped in a hall in the Reiber building on South Main street during the first five years of its existence. On February 1, 1893, the Rev. Eli Miller, D. D. became minister, and immediately initiated plans for securing a church building. A charter was secured on May 13, 1893, and the same year a lot was purchased at a cost of $1,500 at New Castle and Church Streets. On this site a brick church costing $5,350 was erected. The dedication took place April 12, 1896.

Following the resignation of Dr. Miller August 31, 1901, the Rev. J. C. Nicholas, D. D. assumed the pastorate on November 1, 1901. Under his leadership the congregation grew from 125 to 789 members, and the Sunday school had an enrollment of 638 members. Having outgrown its facilities so quickly, the original brick church was razed and replaced with the present stone edifice which was dedicated on January 3, 1915, at a cost of $35,000.

Dr. Nicholas relinquished his work on October 25, 1915, and his successor was the Rev. E. Victor Roland who began his pastorate January 16, 1916. With his aggressive guidance the work of the congregation went steadily forward. In 1923 a large dwelling house across the street was acquired and used as a parsonage and Sunday school annex until 1947, when it was sold and another property adjoining the church purchased and remodeled for use as a parish house and living quarters for the pastor.

An extended term of fruitful service was that of the Rev. Robert W. Doty, D. D., who was installed May 1, 1928. At the time of his sudden death on July 31, 1942, the congregation was in the midst of a vigorous campaign for the total liquidation of the church debt.

The Rev. Elmer P. Wentz was then called and served the congregation from October 15, 1942 to July 1, 1948. During his pastorate plans were laid for the complete renovation of the church sanctuary and Sunday school rooms. Upon completion of this improvement program the church was rededicated on September 19, 1948, with the service in charge of a son of the congregation, the Rev. J. Victor Murtland. Three others from the parish have also entered the ministry: The Rev. William Seligman, the Rev. William Good, and the Rev. James McCormick.

Grace Church has been served by the following pastors: H. B. Winton, 1890-1891; J. E. Maurer, 1891-1893; Eli Miller, D. D., 1893-1901; J. C. Nicholas, 1901-1915; E. Victor Roland, 1916-1927; Charles Leonard, D. D., 1927-1928; Robert W. Doty, D. D., 1928-1942; Elmer P. Wentz, 1942-1948; R. F. Steininger, Ph. D., 1949 —.

Butler Trinity 1912

THE section of Butler, known as Institute Hill, was canvassed by the missionary superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod in the summer of 1912. The field seemed promising, and Student Charles G. Aurand was placed in charge of it for three months. During that time he organized a Sunday School, and enlisted the interest of a number of families in the proposed church. Trinity Church was organized by Dr. J. E. Bittle, on September 1, 1912, with 25 of the 35 charter members coming from Grace Church.

A corner lot on Third and East Brady Street was secured as the Church site, and the support of the mission was assumed by the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Pittsburgh Synod. A large frame Chapel was erected at a cost of $7,000, and dedicated by Dr. J. E. Bittle, on December 1, 1912. While there was a measure of progress made by the mission during the early period of its history, it was not able to do all that was expected of it; and this was generally charged to poor equipment.

When the Rev. F. H. Crissman became pastor in 1921, he sensed this need and suggested plans of development. Generous assistance was pledged by the Women's Missionary Society, and the building was raised five feet, veneered with light brown stone, and almost reconstructed at a cost of $35,000. The interior of the Church was made to conform to historical Lutheran lines. After some delay the completed building was dedicated by Pastor Crissman on October 19, 1924. Unfortunately the complete remodeling program did not provide the expected impetus in growth and this mission congregation continued its struggle through the depression and war years.

Growth in membership through these years was slow and sporadic. However, a small core of faithful members led by lay member, Dr. C. Edward Miller, Butler dentist, labored diligently through these dark years, never giving up hope. In June, 1953 a new policy of free-will giving was adopted which excluded all anti-biblical money raising schemes. As a result the Congregation "caught fire". This statement is born out by the fact that the congregation has showed a rapid growth in membership and has secured the first parsonage in the history of the church.

On November 15, 1955, a brick split-level dwelling was completed in the Bon Aire District of the city and was purchased at a cost of $19,600. The parsonage was dedicated on April 22, 1956. In addition the remaining debt on the Church building has been paid and an impressive "Mortgage Burning" ceremony was held on April 8, 1956. The Church has also responded quite generously to the benevolent appeals of Synod and intends to continue its 100 plus benevolent giving.

In 1957, under the energetic leadership of Pastor Ruble the church acquired property outside Butler on Route 8. The Mission Board has approved the building of a church on this site. In the interim, however, services are being held both in Butler and in a building on the newly acquired property.

The pastors were: W. C. Waltemeyer, 1913-16; J. R. Nicholas, 1916-20; F. H. Crissman, 1921-25; T. L. Crouse, 1925-33; L. K. Clare, 1933-38; C. L. Hunt, 1939-44; George C. Reese, 1944-45; H. M. Clements, 1945-49; Willis M. Ross, 1950-52; Robert B. Ruble, 1953 —.

Carmichaels St. Paul's 1948

(See Plate 7)

IN looking over the territory of the Pittsburgh Synod the Synodical Board of American Missions observed that there was no Lutheran congregation in Greene County, the south-western most corner of Pennsylvania. A survey was made in October of 1946 but proved discouraging. A second survey under the Rev. Donald L. Houser, Superintendent of Missions of the Synod, found twenty prospective Lutheran families and prospects of many more moving into the territory because of the development of the coal fields in Greene County. The prospects looked so good that the Synodical Board extended to Pastor Raymond E. Agnew in April of 1947 a call to start the work of organizing a congregation. He arrived on September 1 and occupied the parsonage which had been purchased in July along with five lots for the building of a church building.

His work began to bear fruit immediately and many Lutherans were found. Carmichaels, where the new congregation was to be centered, was the hub of a territory surrounded by many small mining towns: Nemacolin, Greensboro, Garards Fort, Mather, Crucible, Clarksville, Fredericktown, and Vestaburg. In fact, today the attending members of the congregation are reached through fifteen post offices.

The first service for these scattered Lutherans of Greene County was held in the Central School building of Cumberland Township, almost directly across from the site purchased for a church building, on October 5, 1947 with thirty-three persons present. So rapidly were people found for the new congregation that on January 4, 1948 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Carmichaels, Pa. was formerly organized by Dr. Houser in the Cumberland Township High School with 207 baptized and 133 confirmed members. It is said that 90 percent of these were Lutheran. They had, for the most part, held connections with churches twenty to thirty miles away; many of them being from Slovak and former German congregations in Charleroi, Uniontown and Connellsville.

Plans for a building were begun immediately and ground broken on April 4, 1948 for a cement block building with a seating capacity of 202. With the help of many members and interested men who gave well over 2,000 hours of labor the building was erected for about $23,000 and valued at the time by the architect, Mr. Arthur Marsolf, at $50,000. Outstanding in the buildings construction was Mr. Ulysses P. Rembold, a member of the congregation, who, with the help of a group of his men from the Crucible Mine, fabricated and erected the steel supports of the walls and roof as a unit. Because of his engineering ability he kept a watchful eye on all the construction so that a very substantial and beautiful building was erected. It was dedicated on October 17, 1948, a little more than six months after the breaking of ground.

It was as yet not complete for there was no ceiling, permanent heating system, no stone or brick veneer on the outside as planned. At the present time the latter project has not yet been planned for. In 1954, under the leadership of its third Pastor, The Rev. Albert E. Speck, unfinished tasks were resumed. The basement was waterproofed, painted and a tile floor laid, a gas-fired hot water heating system with baseboard radiation installed, the nave and narthex painted, acoustical insulation tile ceiling installed, two large fans installed for summer comfort, and an asphalt tile floor laid. Outside walks were laid and wrought iron railings installed on steps and porches.

With the mechanization of the coal mines, which is the only large source of

gainful employment open to the people of the community the expected influx of people into the community did not materialize and rapid growth was slowed down. In the 1954 period of depression in the coal fields many of the younger people with growing families were forced to move from the community to find work. In the face of this the congregation has strengthened itself and today has a confirmed membership of 234 persons.

St. Paul's has been served by: Raymond E. Agnew, 1947-1950; Arthur H. Blank, 1950-1952; Albert E. Speck, 1952 —.

Carnegie St. Andrew's 1905

THIS church was born in the heart of a devoted family, which, in order to keep in closer touch with their brethren of the same faith, organized a Sunday School and invited their friends and neighbors to attend. When this school outgrew these private quarters, Martin's Hall, on the corner of Main Street and Broadway, was rented, where the missionary superintendent effected a temporary organization, October 15, 1905. From that time to April 1, 1906, regular services were conducted by Pastor W. E. Brown of Crafton. Services were then discontinued because it was no longer possible to rent the hall. The Sunday School was then allowed to meet in the East Carnegie Shawhan School, with the understanding that it should be conducted as a union school. The Crafton pastors were always willing to lend a helping hand to this school, and Mr. M. E. Studer of the Crafton Church served for a time as the superintendent. The Ulsh family never failed to furnish a large quota of workers.

During all this time there was a strong sentiment for the organization of a Lutheran Church, but the people were restrained by the lack of a church building. On May 6, 1910, a lot on the corner of Doolittle Ave. and John Street (now Alter Street) was deeded by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Dunn to Rev. Milton E. McLinn, acting trustee of St. Andrew's Church, for $600. The Ladies' Aid Society advanced $100 for the purchase of this property. The cornerstone of a frame chapel was laid, June 19, 1910, and the completed church dedicated by Dr. J. E. Bittle October 2, 1910. The congregation was organized by Dr. Bittle in the unfinished church July 31, 1910, with 36 members. The cost of the church was $3,400.

A charter was obtained September 13, 1910, which retained the cherished name of the provisional organization of 1905. The first regular pastor of the mission was Rev. W. Roy Goff, who served from November 1, 1910 to December 1, 1911.

During the pastorate of Rev. Edwin B. Boyer, the lot adjoining the church was bought for $700, and a good parsonage was built at a cost of $3,700.

Mr. Hugh E. Warren began to serve this congregation in November, 1929 and continued beyond his ordination in 1945 after 16 years of self giving service. It was during Pastor Warren's time that the mortgage was paid. A congregation that had been floundering in the prosperous years was held together and grew in the depression years under Pastor Warren's tireless, dedicated service.

Pastor A. W. Stremel, D. D., supplied the pulpit in 1947 in the interim between Pastor Warren's leaving and the coming of Pastor Ellwood Hauser in November, 1947. In less than three years, Pastor Hauser, through evangelization and extended pastoral care, almost doubled the communing membership from 88 in 1947 to 172 in 1949. It was in 1949 that the men of the church, and even non-members, under Pastor Hauser's encouragement, built an addition to the basement the width of the old church and extending 56 feet beyond. It was

called "Fellowship Hall" and served as a Church School and a meeting place for the auxiliaries. The work which Pastor Hauser began stands as a challenge to the congregation to launch out and complete the total extension of the church by the 50th anniversary in 1960. In 1957 the congregation followed up the Evangelism Mission with the Sector Plan of Stewardship.

St. Andrew's has had two of her sons enter the Ministry. They are Ira Wilson who served at Woodstock, Va. and is presently of Roanoke, Virginia, and Eugene Hrabovsky called to his home congregation after serving for three years as Student Pastor of St. Andrew's while commuting to Western Theological Seminary and Hamma Divinity School. Both of these pastors had their beginnings under the care of Pastor Hugh E. Warren.

The pastors have served in the following order: W. R. Goff, 1910-1911; J. G. Kozer, 1912-1914; N. D. Swank, 1914-1916; E. B. Boyer, 1916-1920; M. H. Messner, 1921-1922; C. F. Hildebrand, 1923-1924; E. F. Dickey, 1924-1926; Paul Schnur (supply) 1927; P. E. Porath 1928-1929; Hugh E. Warren, 1929-1947; A. W. Stremel (supply) 1947; Ellwood Hauser, 1947-1950; John E. Wilson, 1950-1953; Eugene Hrabovsky, 1953 —.

Carrick Redeemer 1902

STUDENT Paul Roth made a canvass of this community in 1901. He found 60 Lutherans interested in the founding of a church. The Pastor of Grace Church, Dr. D. L. Roth, was in sympathy with the movement, but not in a position to finance the building of a church. Dr. Roth consented to act as trustee for the proposed congregation and a fine lot on the Brownsville road, 100 x 140, valued at $4,000 at the time was donated by Henry Thielman.

The Sunday School was organized by the acting pastor, Rev. F. W. Kohler, May 24, 1903. J. Boyd Duff became the first superintendent. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor Kohler April 19, 1903, and the completed building was dedicated by Rev. H. S. Gilbert September 20, 1903. The total cost of the furnished church was $11,200.

Pastor Kohler continued to serve the congregation until August 1, 1903, when a call was accepted by Rev. H. S. Gilbert. It was agreed that any confirmed members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church could become members of the new organization by signing the model constitution recommended by the General Council.

Pastor Gilbert resigned May 8, 1910 and was succeeded by Pastor John A. Waters, who served from October 1, 1910 to October 2, 1922. On the twenty-fifth day after his resignation, this devoted servant was called to his reward at Jumonville, Pa.

When Pastor Waters began his work here, there was considerable strife in the congregation and much talk of organizing another church in connection with the General Synod. The congregation at the time was a mission of the General Council, but conditions improved so rapidly that self-support was assumed, May 1, 1913. Pastor Waters was also compelled to battle with a church debt of $9,000, but the payment of the last dollar was celebrated September 1, 1920. A pipe organ was installed in 1917 at a cost of $1,300.

The successor to Pastor Waters was Rev. M. Herbert Messner who accepted a call November 22, 1922. At the beginning of this pastorate a fine parsonage was

erected. This parsonage, however, was later sold and a new one adjoining the church was purchased at 1630 Brownsville Road in 1949 at a cost of $22,000.

Recently plans have been drawn for a new educational building to be built on the church lawn of a cost of $65,000 or $70,000? About $40,000 has already been realized.

The following ministers have served this church: F. W. Kohler (supply), 1901-1903; H. S. Gilbert, 1903-1910; J. A. Waters, 1910-1922; M. H. Messner, D. D. 1922 —.

Center Township Faith 1954

IN the summer of 1953 the area between the towns of Aliquippa and Monaca, Pennsylvania, was surveyed by the Board of American Missions of our ULCA in an effort to see if the territory warranted planting a mission congregation. Mr. Leroy Dobbe, then a seminarian at Hamma Divinity School, was asked to make the survey. The results of this survey showed many people in the area to be interested in starting a church. So enthused was Mr. Dobbe at the promise of the field that he decided to take a years internship from his studies and organize the people into a congregation. He received permission from the Board of American Missions to develop the field.

Sunday School services were started in August of 1953, and worship services were begun in October. The group met then, and at the time of this writing still meets, in a Grange Hall. On January 17, 1954, 66 people signed the charter membership list and Faith Lutheran Church was born. Within two months of the organization of the congregation a women's group was formed; it took the name "Women of Faith." The congregation was given a financial boost in March when Mrs. Anna Schuller donated two lots of ground valued at about $1500. At about the same time the congregation took options on two parcels of land located on the main corner of the township; the corner of the Brodhead Road (Route 51) and the Grange Road. These fine lots were later purchased for use as the site of the future church buildings.

In May of 1954 Mr. Dobbe left the field to return to seminary and complete his studies for the ministry. At this time it was decided to realign the parish and include the Van Kirk congregation as part of this pastoral charge, making the Center Township Parish. The Rev. Charles J. Schweikert, newly ordained minister, was called as pastor. The summer of 1954 saw a Nursery started which took care of young children during the worship hour. In autumn of that year two choirs were organized: a Junior Choir and an Adult Choir.

In March of 1955 the congregation purchased a six room house for use as a parsonage. It is located on the Grange Road about one-half a mile from Route 51. A Luther League was organized in September and a few months later the adults in the Sunday School organized themselves into the "Duracle Bible Class."

The congregation grew slowly and while still meeting in the Grange Hall began to make plans for a church building. Late in 1955 the congregation voted to go ahead with plans for the building and selected Mr. Arthur Martzolf of New Brighton as architect. The congregation broke ground for the first unit of the church building early in 1957.

Charles J. Schweikert is the only ordained pastor to serve this congregation.

Center Township Van Kirk 1929

IN the year 1928 the Rev. Charles E. Read, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Monaca, learned of the existence of a small community just outside of the town. As a faithful pastor, Dr. Read called upon the people there and found many who desired that a church be organized in their community. He received permission from Redeemer congregation to undertake the work. In March of 1929 a Sunday School was organized and in May preaching services were begun in the local school building: Van Kirk School. In June a temporary organization of the church was effected on a union basis, since the people interested in the congregation were of various denominations. A Missionary Society was organized in September of 1929 and has been functioning ever since.

The depression hit the mission hard. Offerings dwindled and then stopped entirely: for a number of years the offering plates were not even passed. Dr. Read served without monetary compensation during these years and services continued without interruption.

In 1937 the congregation met to consider organizing permanently as a part of the Lutheran Church. A constitution was adopted and the first council was elected. 1938 saw the beginning of a building fund as the congregation began to plan for a new church building. The Batchelor family of Monaca donated a plot of ground near the main road in 1939; the property had 75 feet in frontage and was 395 feet deep. Mr. Jesse Martzolf was asked to draw up plans for a small church building, which he did. A groundbreaking service was held on September 22, 1940, and work began. In order to raise much needed funds an ice cream stand was erected and continued in existence for six years, sponsored in a large measure by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Erickson. 1941 brought circumstances which changed the plans regarding the church building. Opportunity was provided the congregation to buy the Van Kirk School property for $405, and this was done. In April of 1942 it was decided to move the school building to the lot given by the Batchelor family. As years went by various improvements were made upon the building, climaxed by the installation of stained glass windows in 1953. At the present time the building, though old, is sturdy, and it provides an atmosphere conducive to worship.

In 1948 a choir and an Intermediate Luther League were organized.

The year 1954 held many events of importance. The 25th Anniversary was observed with the completion and dedication of the church building. The year also brought a realignment of the pastoral charge and a change in pastors. After many years of dedicated service Dr. Read resigned and Van Kirk was united with the newly organized Faith Church to form the Center Township Parish. The Rev. Charles J. Schweikert was called as pastor and began to serve in July.

Through the years the congregation has grown slowly in numbers and activities. Early in 1955 a second group of women in the congregation was organized and now meets as the "Dorcas Society". The original group of women adopted the name of the "Cecilia Read Society" and still continues to meet. At present the communing membership numbers 74 people, and all debt on the church building is now removed.

Only two pastors have so far served this parish: Charles E. Read, 1929-1954; Charles J. Schweikert, 1954 —.

Chalk Hill Christ 1876

SOON after Rev. A. H. Waters became superintendent of the Jumonville Orphanage, he was urged by John Menhart of Chalk Hill to hold services in that community. Rev. Waters willingly complied and preached in the school house for ten years, accepting no support except the offerings of the people.

In 1874 Rev. F. C. E. Lemcke spent his summer vacation doing mission work in this community. The same year Rev. Waters organized a congregation under the name "Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church." A constitution was adopted and officers were elected. With the exception of the year 1878, when Rev. E. G. Lund supplied for a short period, Rev. A. H. Waters served this new congregation regularly. In 1886 Rev. John A. Waters took charge and served for the next twenty-five years.

In 1894 a plot of ground, three acres in area was purchased. A cemetery was laid out and a plan adopted for the erection of the new church building. On July 14, 1895, the cornerstone was laid. In this service Pastor J. A. Waters was assisted by Rev. A. H. Waters, Rev. Alfred Ramsey and the President of Synod, Rev. J. C. Kunzman. The work of building was pushed successfully forward and on October 11, 1895 it was dedicated to the worship of God with impressive ceremonies. This church must not be confused with Zion Church of Jumonville, which was organized by Pastor Asa H. Waters April 16, 1881 and served by him and Rev. J. A. Waters until the closing of the orphanage in 1911.

Under the devoted care of the first pastors, Christ Church became a congregation of 84 members. Rev. J. A. Waters was buried in the church cemetery on October 20, 1922 and his widow in June, 1956.

In 1895 a charter was obtained for the congregation, and in 1896 was admitted into the Pittsburgh Synod. Owing to the many local changes the congregation never grew to large numbers, but loyalty and faithfulness characterized them. The oldest living members with continuous membership in Chirst Church are Mrs. Margaret Burke and Mr. George Jackson. For their faithful witnessing this congregation is honored and blessed.

The church proper was a frame building, in size 28 x 42 feet, neatly built and furnished then at a cost of about $1500. It has a tower, a vestibule and some stained glass windows and it has served its community very well as a rural church.

In 1947 a large Sunday School room plus a kitchen were added to the rear of the building. In the fall of 1947 another important event took place. A meeting was held by the President of the Pittsburgh Synod with this congregation and St. John's of Connellville for the purpose of forming a new parish. As a result, this was accomplished. The new parish, the Fayette County Lutheran Parish, chose as its first pastor, Rev. C. F. Hildebrand who came to serve them in June 1943. Thus weekly services and other pastoral attentions were put on a regular basis.

On Reformation Sunday, October 30, 1949 the congregation's 75th anniversary sermon was given by Rev. Russell McCullough, President of the Greensburg Conference and in 1955 the new electric organ was dedicated by Rev. Richard M. Langsdale, former pastor of Trinity Church, Connellsville.

The roll of pastors is as follows: A. H. Waters, 1874-1886; J. A. Waters, 1886-1911; J. A. Boord, 1911-1913; J. A. Yount, 1914-1917; R. H. Williams, 1918-1920; H. H. Will, 1920-1925; Vacant for 14 years; F. C. H. Scholz, 1939-1941; S. E. Kuhn, 1942-1947; C. F. Hildebrand Jr., S.T.D., 1948-1952; James Robbins, 1952-1953; Since then vacant.

Charleroi Christ 1901

(See Plate 8)

THE first Lutheran service held in Charleroi was on the second of June, 1901, in charge of student Fred R. Wagner. On September 22 of the same year an organization was completed with 31 charter members, the Rev. S. J. McDowell, Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, officiating.

Three lots were purchased at Washington Avenue and Sixth Street during the pastorate of the Rev. Harvey M. Leech, who served the parish from December 1, 1901, to June 24, 1906. It was not until 1909 that a beautiful stone building was erected at a cost of $29,000. The Rev. Chalmers E. Frontz was pastor at that time, and he arranged for the service of dedication on May 30, with the Rev. Alonzo J. Turkle, D. D. preaching the sermon.

A frame parsonage was purchased and moved to the lot adjoining the church at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Sixth Street, also during the pastorate of Rev. Frontz. The property at this time was valued at about $42,000, with an indebtedness of $32,800. A two-car garage was built during the pastorate of the Rev. Walter J. Bressler.

On July 26, 1925, the congregation became self-sustaining, having been a mission for almost twenty-four years. During these years there was a great deal of economic uncertainty in the community, several industries having moved to other localities, so that a small congregation was burdened with a debt far out of proportion to the financial ability of its members. This circumstance had a serious effect on the spiritual growth, which in turn reacted unfavorably on finances, so that it was thirty-six years before the debt on the church was finally paid.

The Rev. Cleason B. King, D. D., accepted a call to the congregation with the specific purpose of liquidating the indebtedness, and a great deal was accomplished, but it was by solicitation outside the membership of the congregation. There remained $7,500 on the original mortgage when he left in March, 1931, after serving the congregation seven years.

From July, 1931 to April, 1934 the Rev. Merle R. Kunkelman was the pastor, serving through the most difficult years of the depression. The high point in his pastorate was the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the church.

The Rev. Meade A. Rugh became pastor on October 1, 1935. The struggle to keep up the interest payments on the debt, and the divisive elements in the congregation had so weakened the life of the church that a pastor of another denomination in the town soon reported that his people were hoping to buy the fine stone building of Christ Lutheran Church.

But there was a fine loyal and interested nucleus in Christ congregation that rallied to the problems before them, and by the grace of God the spiritual life improved and made possible a better financial outlook. A more systematic way of meeting the indebtedness was adopted, the members themselves assuming the obligation, so that on March 31, 1945, the final payment on the mortgage was made.

Very little repair of the church property had been made in many years, so that the people were faced with the necessity of doing much to preserve the buildings. A new tile roof on the church, a furnace, renovation of the nave, including installation of new lantern-type lighting, carpet and other items, were provided in the next five years at a cost of nearly $14,000, all of which was paid in cash, no interest being incurred.

In 1937 the Junior Church plan was instituted, and has been continued to the present, making possible the training of children in worship, thus helping to hold them in the services of the church. During the years from 1942 to 1950 a number of items were added to the chancel furnishings, including an altar cross, candelabra, vases, altar desk and new offering plates. The wearing of the robe was introduced at the beginning of the present pastorate, the vestments now used being cassock, surplice and stole. The choir has also been suitably robed.

On November 17, 1947, the entire morning worship service was broadcast from Station WESA, Charleroi, the first religious service to go out from this station.

On Easter 1950, following the completion of renovation of the nave, services of rededication were held, the Rev. Elmer E. Flack, Th.D., D.D., Dean of Hamma Divinity School, preaching the sermon in the evening service.

The first floor of the church building was entirely remodeled and refurnished in 1955, resulting in a completely modern educational and recreational area. A rededication service was held November 27, 1955, the Rev. G. Lawrence Himmelman, D.D., President of the Pittsburgh Synod, preaching the sermon. The cost of this latest improvement of the property was approximately $27,000. A mortgage of $20,000 was arranged.

Although the congregation has not grown in numbers, many young people having been transferred to other congregations, yet there has been a steady growth in spiritual life, reflected in the giving for benevolence and other causes. Payment of apportionment has increased from 28% to 100% in the past 20 years. The communing membership has increased to almost 80% of the confirmed membership.

A new emphasis on the spiritual life and evangelistic service was received during the spring of 1956 by participation in an Area Evangelism Mission, and the congregation looks forward courageously to accomplishing its purpose in the community in the years ahead.

The following pastors have served this congregation: Harvey M. Leech, 1901-1906; Chalmers E. Frontz, D. D., 1907-1911; C. P. Bastian, D. D., 1912-1919; J. Walter Bressler, 1919-1923; Cleason B. King, D. D., 1924-1931; Merle Rea Kunkelman, 1931-1935; Meade A. Rugh, 1935-1957; Charles Zacher, 1957 —.

Chicora First 1848

FOR many years before the organization of a Lutheran Church in this town, Rev. J. G. C. Schweizerbarth and Rev. John Esensee held services in the Barnhart Community, the former as early as 1829. Pastor John Esensee also preached occasionally in Millerstown, 1842-1844, but he never organized a congregation. In 1836 Philip Barnhart donated a lot in the town, on condition that it should be used exclusively for church and school purposes. A log building was erected here, which was used as a place of worship on Sundays, and as a schoolhouse during the week. St. Paul's Church of the Ohio Synod now stands on the eastern end of this lot.

A Sunday School was organized by Joseph Eberhard in the school which was located on the farm of Peter F. Barnhart. English Lutheran services were held for the first time in 1846 at the home of William McCullough, and several communion services were also held there. The large family reared in this home has added much to the strength of the parish.

"The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Millerstown" was organized by Rev. Eli Fair with 16 members on December 30, 1848. Full provision was made in

the constitution for both English and German services, but the Germans were not satisfied, and organized a separate congregation on October 15, 1849. First Lutheran Church was incorporated October 24, 1849 on petition of Rev. Eli Fair, William McCullough, Leonard Rumbaugh, Isaac Reep, and Solomon Fleeger. A lot was secured from F. W. Barnhart, and the trustees were instructed to build. The cornerstone of the church was laid by Pastor Eli Fair, June 8, 1849, and the building was dedicated by Pastor Thomas Steck, March 21, 1852.

A new constitution in harmony with The General Synod Lutheran Church requirements was adopted, June 12, 1858. The "strict discipline" of this constitution was enforced by the congregation for twenty years, with not a little of the wheat disturbed by the tares. But this was in perfect harmony with the church spirit of that day.

In 1880 the congregation decided to build a new church. The first plan was to build on the corner lots below Barney Frederick's, but this was abandoned and the church was built on the old site at a cost of $6,000. The cornerstone was laid, July 27, 1884, and the building dedicated by Pastor T. A. Himes January 5, 1885. During the pastorate of Rev. C. E. Frontz, 1901-1907, Mrs. Mary McCullough presented a pipe organ in the memory of her husband, and Mrs. Frederick gave a fine altar. Other improvements were made at the same time at a cost of $1,000. A service of dedication was conducted by Pastor Frontz June 4, 1905.

The improvement of the highway in front of the church made an unsightly entrance. It was decided to move the church back 20 feet and to add 14 feet to the building. These improvements were carried out at a cost of $20,000, and the church was rededicated by Pastor H. H. Flick November 23, 1924.

During the pastorate of Rev. Daubenspeck a new brick parsonage was erected in 1927. During the early part of 1948 noteworthy improvements were begun. The chancel was remodeled. The organ was taken from the center and placed to the right side with the choir stall on the left side. An altar was placed in the proper place in the chancel and an altar rail was included. These gave the nave a very churchly appearance. On September 19, 1948, Pastor H. M. Miller dedicated the chancel and memorials at a Re-dedication Service.

During the pastorate of Dr. C. F. Hildebrand, other improvements about the church property followed in proper sequence. With an increased loyalty and vision and consecration of congregational membership, a greater witnessing will be the result.

The following pastors have served the congregation: Eli Fair, 1848-1849; A. C. Ehrenfeld (supply), 1850-1851; Thomas Steck, 1851-1854; J. B. Breckenridge, 1854-1856; Supplies, 1857-1858; I. J. Delo, 1858-1859; Jacob Singer, 1860-1863; A. S. Miller, 1865-1872; J. W. Reese, 1873-1875; J. F. Cressler, 1876-1879; A. C. Felker, 1879-1881; T. A. Himes, 1881-1886; Eli Miller, 1887-1893; J. R. Williams, 1893-1896; J. W. Romich, 1897-1901; C. E. Frontz, 1901-1906; W. B. Claney, 1907-1910; C. W. Barnett, 1910-1917; H. H. Flick, 1917-1926; F. H. Daubenspeck, 1927-1936; W. H. Marburger, 1936-1943; L. Paul Mueller, 1943-1947; H. M. Miller, 1947-1951; C. F. Hildebrand, Jr., S.T.D., 1952 —.

Chicora (Sugar Creek Twp.)
Mt. Pleasant 1888

MANY of the first settlers of this community were Germans, who were organized as "Bernhard's Church" by Pastors Henry Koch and J. G. C. Schweizerbarth, about the year 1827. A log church was built in which Lutheran and Reformed congregations worshipped for many years. In the old burial ground of this church lie the bodies of many of the pioneers of the community. When the Lutherans organized a congregation in Chicora December 30, 1848, it meant then the disruption of this congregation. The Reformed then relocated their place of worship, and the old burial ground was left alone at "Bernhard's". After the lapse of many years a Lutheran congregation was organized by Rev. Eli Miller October 28, 1888, with 31 members.

Much of the credit of this organization was due to Amos Steel who donated the ground and served as chairman of the organization committee. The cornerstone of their church was laid on December 1, 1888, and the building was dedicated by Pastor Eli Miller on May 5, 1889. The church was built of frame at a cost of $2,500. For a time the congregation supported their own pastor, and a parsonage was built for $1,200 during the pastorate of Rev. J. C. Nicholas. In 1907 the church was thoroughly renovated, and memorial windows were installed.

With the arrival of Rev. C. W. Barnett, this congregation became associated with First Lutheran in Chicora, and has since then shared parish relationships. The life of the congregation moved along in the usual manner for more than a quarter of a century. Then thoughts of renovation again came into the picture. The building was lengthened by an addition to the building at the rear during the pastorate of Rev. H. M. Miller.

When Rev. C. F. Hildebrand, Jr., S.T.D., became pastor in 1952, these thoughts of renovation were revived and attention was turned to the remodeling of the nave and chancel. This work was completed and the church was rededicated to the glory of God and His Church on October 19, 1952 at a cost of about $8,000. New life came to the congregation and a new vision began to have its effect. With much earnest effort the mortgage for this indebtedness was burned on February 18, 1954.

This vision included an organ. Steps were taken in this direction by setting up a fund for it. On April 15, 1956, a Hammond Electric Organ was dedicated almost debt free. With increased zeal and vision the future of the congregation will be an increasing influence in the community, and an ever increased enlargement of it borders.

The following pastors have served this congregation: Eli Miller, 1888-1893; J. R. Williams, 1893-1897; J. C. Nicholas, 1897-1900; W. O. Ibach, 1900-1901; A. J. B. Kast, 1902-1903; G. W. McSherry, 1903-1910; C. W. Barnett, 1910-1917; H. H. Flick, 1917-1926; F. H. Daubenspeck, 1927-1936; W. H. Marburger, 1936-1943; L. Paul Mueller, 1943-1947; Harlon M. Miller, 1947-1951; C. F. Hildebrand, Jr., S.T.D., 1952 —.

Clarion Grace 1890

THE town of Clarion was liad out in 1840, but the German settlers in the county seemed to prefer their farms to the town. Occasionally a Lutheran family would move to town, but never in such numbers as to warrant the organization of a church. In this manner many excellent people were lost to the Lutheran Church. A few families remained loyal for seventeen years, hoping for a time when they could have a church of their own faith; and their hopes were realized, March 9, 1890, when Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized with 27 members. Pastors W. W. Kribbs, John G. Goettman, H. B. Winton, J. L. Metzgar, and J. M. Rice were present at the organization. The first place of meeting was Frampton's Opera House; then the old Methodist Church was rented and fitted up for services. This church was bought for $1,200 in 1892, and remodeled in the summer of 1894. It was rededicated by Pastor H. E. Wieand, October 21, 1894. The congregation was incorporated, February 20, 1893. During the pastorate of Rev. J. G. Langham, 1906-1909, a two manuel pipe organ was installed. During the pastorate of Rev. Joseph Arnold, 1915-1919, the basement was completed and equipped for Sunday School purposes, and electric light and steam heat were installed, at a total cost of $2,600. A service of rededication was conducted by the missionary superintendent, June 6, 1917. The parsonage was bought and equipped with modern conveniences in 1923 at a cost of $4,700.

After many years of receiving aid from the Home Mission Board, Grace Church became self-sustaining on January 1, 1929. In 1938, a major remodeling project was undertaken and completed at a cost of approximately $5,200. This project included a new chancel with new furnishings, a new organ, a new floor and carpeting, and many other necessary improvements. The rededication service was held on Nov. 20, 1938. In 1940, the first 50 years of Grace Church was marked by special services. The Rev. F. E. Reinartz was the main speaker for this event.

In July of 1948, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Freas purchased and presented a new Wurlitzer organ to the Church. Included in this gift was a set of Maas Cathedral Chimes. In 1949, Grace Church undertook, and successfully carried out, remodeling program which involved replacing the antiquated front of the Church, placing a Narthex and balcony in the Church, installing a modern gas fired steam heating system, and other improvements. The overall cost of this program, including the new organ, came to over $25,000. All of the surviving former pastors were present for the dedication services held during the week of October 2-9, 1949.

At the present time Grace Church has one full time worker in the work of Christ. Miss Mary Kimpel is serving as parish worker in Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville, S. C. Another member of the congregation, Mr. James Servey, is completing his first year at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Penna.

In the near future, Grace Church is going to undertake another extensive remodeling program which will involve purchasing new pews for the Nave and adding on to our educational plant.

The growth of Grace Church has never been rapid due to the small turn-over of personnel in Clarion itself. However, Clarion is becoming home to several new factories which fact will make some difference in the size of the community and will affect, to some extent, the growth of Grace Church. The congregational membership at the end of 1955 was as follows: baptized - 396, confirmed - 290, communing - 235.

The regular pastors who have served Grace Church were: W. E. Main, 1891-1892; H. E. Wieand, 1892-1896; W. J. Bucher, 1897-1898; H. E. Zimmerman, 1899-1900; B. W. Ziegler, 1901-1904; J. G. Langham, 1906-1909; B. R. M. Sheeder, 1910-1915; Joseph Arnold, 1915-1919; W. R. Brenneman, 1920-1922; H. G. Stuempfle, 1922-1927; J. Kentrizer, 1928-1936; F. C. Snyder, 1936-1944; E. R. Smail, 1945-1953; D. L. Soderberg, 1954-1957; James McCormick, 1957 —.

Clarion (Dutch Hill) Mt. Calvary 1848

SOON after Rev. William Uhl became pastor of Licking Parish, he began to hold meetings in a school house in this community. These meetings resulted in the organization of a church of 41 members in 1848. His successor was Rev. Joseph Welker, who dedicated a frame church in 1852. Part of the two-acre church lot was secured from Robert Stewart. Part was donated.

The church was thoroughly renovated and refurnished in 1879, and a service of rededication was held January 1, 1882. New chancel furniture was bought in 1893, and the church tower erected in 1894. The congregation was served by the pastors of Licking Parish until 1916, when it was separated on complaint being made to the synod by the other churches in the parish. From that time until 1945, there was no ministerial service except for occasional supplies.

However, throughout this time, when there was no pastor working with the congregation, Sunday School was held each week. In 1945, under the direction of Dr. G. Lawrence Himmelman and with partial support from the Board of American Mission, Rev. Everett Smail of Clarion undertook supplying the congregation each week. This has been continued under the pastorate of Rev. Dale Soderberg. Membership has remained small, but the spirit is good. Recently, the congregation undertook a remodeling program in which they completely remodeled the interior of the church. In the near future, this work will be dedicated.

Clairton Trinity 1921

ON January 1, 1922 the towns of Clairton, North Clairton, Wilson and Blair united to form the third class city of Clairton. The General Synod and General Council workers looked over this field in 1900 but were not able to establish a permanent organization due largely to the high percentage of foreign speaking peoples in the new population. When the Carnegie Steel Company built the new town adjoining Wilson, a number of Lutherans, who were ready for the organization of a church, moved in. Dr. Bittle visited them in the summer of 1920 and made arrangements for Student Walter Winner, to conduct a canvass. A protest was made against this canvass by the Swedish pastor of Duquesne, Pa., who had been holding services for a number of Lutheran Swedes in the Presbyterian church of Wilson. This protest was finally withdrawn and Student David E. Maxwell was sent into the field.

Trinity Church, with 21 members, was organized by the missionary superintendent on July 31, 1921 but the charter list was kept open until October 9, 1921 when forty-five (45) names were enrolled. The charter was secured in July, 1922. Student Oscar Carlson supplied the mission during the winter of 1921-1922. The missionary appropriation the first year was $1,000.

One of the best church sites in the city was then bought for the mission by the Advisory Board for $2,575 and here a portable chapel was set up by volunteer

workers. The chapel was used for the first time on December 25, 1921. When Pastor Maxwell resigned October 1, 1925 he could report 109 confirmed members and a Sunday School of 108 scholars.

The Rev. Royal E. Lesher became pastor June 13, 1926. The portable chapel was replaced by a 45 ft. x 60 ft. beautiful Buff Mountain Sandstone church located on Fourth and Walnut Avenue and it was dedicated February 24, 1929. It has a seating capacity of 230 and cost $50,000. The congregation assumed a debt of $40,000

The depression caused many to lose their homes so that when Pastor Simon resigned January 31, 1942, with back interest and extra loans, the debt rose to $44,000. The present pastor, the Rev. August F. Schilling, entered this field August 1, 1942. The debt was refinanced on a long payment plan. A fine new parsonage was bought for $6,500 and paid for July 1, 1944. All notes and mortgages were paid on August 8 ,1955.

The following pastors have served Trinity: David E. Maxwell, 1922-1925; Royal E. Lesher, 1926-1929; H. T. Neve, 1929-1932; A. E. Simon, 1932-1942; August F. Schilling, 1942-1958; Thomas R. Stennett, 1958 —.

Cleveland, Ohio St. John's 1922

SOME of the first Siebenburger Saxon immigrants of 1885 located in Cleveland. They formed into various associations such as a Singing Society, a Sick Benefit Association, and a Women's Society, but no church. They had come to America to make money and to return to their homeland to enjoy it. Because of the absence of the church moral discipline was relaxed. However, after World War I Transylvania was transferred to Rumania. This made the Saxons realize that America was to be their permanent home.

As early as 1907 Pastor George Shuster of Youngstown held services for the Saxons, but he could effect no organization. In November, 1908 Pastor Michael Orendt came to Cleveland and succeeded in organizing the "First Siebenburger Saxon Evangelical Lutheran Church," but the visitation of Pastor Wittstock of Transylvania created a division of sentiment that led to the withdrawal of Pastor Orendt and the dissolution of his congregation. Pastor Wittstock's efforts also failed and he returned to the Fatherland in 1909.

The next attempt was made by Pastor Erich Wilhelm Becker, a member of the German Evangelical Synod. A large church on Euclid Avenue was secured and many had great hope for success. Then something happened. The congregation suddenly dissolved.

After this pathetic attempt the Pittsburgh Synod ordained Johann Foisel and sent him as a missionary to Cleveland to organize his countrymen. While he met with little encouragement at the start, he announced that a service for the Siebenburger Saxons would be held in the West Side Hall June 4, 1922. When the hour of service came, there were only six persons present. One hour later, however, the young missionary was able to preach from an improvised pulpit to 200 Saxons. On July 9, 1922 he was able to organize St. John's Church and secure the election of his first church council.

The organization meeting was held in a Reformed church, but later the place of worship was changed to Calvary Lutheran church. On September 19, 1922 the property at 761 Eddy road, 91 x 250, with a frame dwelling was bought for $15,000

with the help of a loan from the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension. This house was fixed up for social purposes, but the church services were held in Bethany on the West Side and Calvary on the East Side. For more than a year two places of meeting was sustained, after which the West Side appointment was dropped. The permanence of this organization was assured September 7, 1924, when 1,000 Saxons assembled to witness the laying of the cornerstone of a new church. This church was built of brick and stone at a cost of $33,300 and was dedicated by Johann Foisel December 21, 1924, when the sermon was preached by Dr. E. A. Tappert.

In 1926 the membership of the church was divided: for the people living on the Westside of Cleveland "Teutsch Memorial Church" was organized. Pastor John Deutschlander became its first pastor and soon Bethany Lutheran Church was bought, to become the center of the second Saxon Mission in the city of Cleveland.

To compensate for the loss of its "Westside members" St. John's church made every effort to win the unchurched and to receive the new Saxon immigrants who chose to make their home on the Eastside.

A most welcome addition to the property was made in 1928 by the acquisition of the Kindergarten-Hall and janitor's quarters, which added about $7,000 to the indebtedness. During the trying years of the depression the bank several times threatened with foreclosing. Repeated short "campaigns" from 1937 to 1943 succeeded in wiping out completely all indebtedness. To gain more parking space and more rooms for the Sunday School a fine six-room house located at the rear of the church property was purchased in 1955.

During World War II 120 members of St. John's served in the Armed Forces. Seven of them were killed in action against their cousins! After the war this church became the center of activity of Lutheran Relief for Transylvania Saxons, Inc. which was organized and presided over by Pastor Foisel. This organization assisted Lutheran World Action and Lutheran World Relief with gifts of $20,000 during one year, and sent food clothing and medicines (12,000 parcels and Care-packages) valued at over $170,000.

The German American Resettlement Service, Inc. another group sponsored (1952) and headed by the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Cleveland made out Assurances and Affidavits of Support for 287 Refugee families, provided furniture and money loans (no interest) and gifts to needy immigrants in this city, and made Christmas presents of more than $5,000 (medicines and money) to the T.B. Hospital for Refugees in Austria, and several Expellee camps.

When the Lutheran Service Society of Northern Ohio was organized in 1953 St. John's Church was one of the first to join; its pastor was elected into the first Board of Trustees.

In late fall of 1954 St. John's Church was the collection center of the Cleveland Lutheran Clothing Drive for Lutheran World Relief, Pastor Foisel was in charge of the Campaign. 12,000 pounds were gathered, packed and loaded by men of his church, who felt they were privileged to help the needy children of God.

Today St. John's is an average congregation of the Pittsburgh Synod. Neither the pastor nor the 480 confirmed members are known to the family of the synod, because they live and work with Lutheran Churches in Cleveland — all members of other church bodies. Yet they do not intend to break away from the dear "MOTHER-SYNOD" to which they still owe a certain loyalty and gratitude.

Conneaut, Ohio — Grace — 1901

GRACE Church was organized with 26 members May 31, 1901. Prior to that time, services were held in City Hall and other places by Pastors G. A. Benze, I. O. Baker, and Frank C. Oberly. The Rev. Isaac H. Stetler became the first full-time pastor in August, 1902. The congregation was incorporated by the State of Ohio on October 20, 1902. Ten days later a lot was purchased on the corner of State and Sandusky streets. The cornerstone was laid October 9, 1904 and a small brick church built. It was dedicated on April 30, 1905 by The Rev. Charles E. Blethen. The church was without a pastor from 1907 to 1909, scarcely maintaining an existence, until The Rev. J. C. F. Rupp accepted a call. During the pastorate of The Rev. Paul I. Morentz, the church basement was built. The dedication was held on May 23, 1916.

St. John's Church, Girard, Pa., was added to the parish during the ministry of The Rev. Frank P. Welkner, who served from 1918 to 1926. A six-room parsonage, erected at the rear of the church lot, was dedicated September 29, 1927 by The Rev. Herman C. Glander.

From 1929 to 1931 The Rev. Jacob O. Kroen served as pastor. The tower bell, installed in 1926, was replaced in the pastorate of The Rev. John M. Nycum, Jr. From 1939 to 1946 Grace Church and St. John's Church, Girard, Pa., were not affiliated. In this period Grace Church was supplied by The Rev. Noah E. Yeiser, D. D., who traveled from Erie, Pa. The Rev. Martin Luther Clare, D. D., was pastor when damage from a fire on January 5, 1946 required extensive renovations. The next pastor, The Rev. Nelson A. Miller, assumed duties as pastor of St. John's Church, Girard, Pa., again uniting the two churches into a single parish. The Rev. William E. Fruth served from 1949 to 1952. Considerable improvement was made to the church property in these years, including the placing of stained glass windows. The 50th Anniversary of the congregation was held during the week of October 21, 1951.

In August, 1952 The Rev. Robert L. Hamilton became pastor. The parish was again made a single charge in March, 1953 when St. John's Church, Girard, Pa., secured a full-time pastor. On December 31, 1953 a marble altar and baptismal font were dedicated. These pieces originally stood in St. John's Church, Forbes St., Pittsburgh, Pa. A new seven-room parsonage was purchased on January 31, 1954 and the former parsonage converted into a Parish House for Church School use.

Through the years many seminarians and supply pastors have helped to maintain the life of the congregation including Jonas O. Henry, Peter Riffer, G. Schumann, William A. Fluck, Guy M. Wilson, William Benson and Joshua M. Miller.

A consecutive list of the pastorates is as follows: Isaac H. Stetler, 1902-1903; Charles E. Blethen, 1903-1907; J. C. F. Rupp, 1909-1914; Paul I. Morentz, 1915-1917; Frank P. Welkner, 1918-1926; Herman C. Glander, 1927-1929; Jacob O. Kroen, 1929-1931; John M. Nycum, Jr., 1931-1938; Noah E. Yeiser, D.D. (Supply), 1938-1945; Martin Luther Clare, D. D., 1945-1946; Nelson A. Miller, 1946-1949; William E. Fruth, 1949-1952; Robert L. Hamilton, 1952-1956; H. M. Miller, 1957 —.

Connellsville St. John's 1871

AROUND 1870 a number of Germans came from West Newton to Connellsville seeking employment in the B & O shops. Their pastor in West Newton was Rev. H. J. H. Lemcke, who organized them into a congregation November, 1871. The first services were held in Odd Fellows Hall, but this soon proved unsatisfactory, and the old stone church of the Disciples on South alley was bought for $3,000 and fitted up as a place of worship.

Pastor Lemcke served the congregation in connection with West Newton, 1871-1877, and Pastor Philip Doerr rendered similar service from 1878 to 1881 after which St. John's called their own pastor. The first pastor under the new arrangement was Rev. W. A. C. Mueller who served from 1881 to 1884, building up a congregation of 229 members and sustaining a vigorous English Sunday School.

During the pastorate of Rev. C. F. Tiemann large numbers of German coal miners came into the coke region and the congregation increased to 400. It was during this time that the English element of the congregation withdrew and formed Trinity Church.

Rev. Philip Lamerdin was called the pastor of the exodus, because, in an attempt to better the living conditions of the people, he led a group of his parishioners into the woods of Wisconsin. The colonists, however, found little but labor and privation in their new homes and nearly all returned to the coke region in less than two years.

Under Pastor Lohman the people were persuaded to rebuild their church. This was done in such a manner that the stone walls of the old church may yet be seen on the east and west sides. The new front was built with a high tower, and the interior was changed to conform to Lutheran usage. The cornerstone was laid, September 4, 1901. The completed building was dedicated in August, 1902. The cost of this improvement was about $15,000, a large part of which was raised during the pastorate of Rev. George Dietz.

During the pastorate of Martin J. Roth a charter was secured, a new constitution was adopted, and full relationship with the synod was resumed. The German language was dropped entirely.

Recently, under Rev. James M. Robbins a new model five Baldwin organ was purchased and placed in the chancel. The choir is now seated in the chancel rather than the balcony. A youth choir has been organized. Many improvements have been made on the interior of the church. A gold cross and candlesticks have recently been placed on the altar. In 1955 the membership stood at 271 and the property valued at $44,200.

The following pastors have served this congregation: H. J. H. Lemcke, 1871-1877; Philip Doerr, 1877-1881; W. A. C. Mueller, 1881-1884; C. F. Tieman, 1884-1889; G. A. Firgau, 1889-1892; Philip Lamerdin, 1893-1894; L. O. Hammer, 1894-1897; G. L. Lohman, 1897-1904; G. Dietz, 1905-1935; P. E. Porath, 1935-1942; M. J. Roth, 1943-1948; C. F. Hildebrand, 1948-1952; J. M. Robbins, 1952 —.

Connellsville Trinity 1884

THE beginnings of Trinity Church are traceable to the vigorous English Sunday School, connected with St. John's Church during the first ten years of her history. Many Connellsville children, regardless of the church affiliations of their parents, attended this school, and not a few of them in later years became members of the Lutheran Church. During the same period English services were held in St. John's every alternate Sunday evening; these were attended by English Lutherans, who moved to Connellsville from the neighboring counties of Somerset and Westmoreland.

This arrangement continued until 1884, when the more conservative Germans began to object to the prominence given to English work, and this naturally resulted in the withdrawal of the entire English element and the organization of the Trinity Church. The leader of these English Lutherans was B. F. Boyts, who invited the people to meet in his Peach street home, where a letter to the president of the Somerset Conference of the Alleghany Synod was written, asking for help in the organization of a church.

Pastor J. F. Shearer of Somerset was sent in response to their request, and a congregation was organized by him in a vacant storeroom on North Pittsburgh Street September 16, 1884, which was named Trinity in honor of the church served by the founder.

While only nine persons signed the petition for a charter, at least a score of others were interested in the establishment of the congregation from the beginning. The congregation was admitted to the Alleghany Synod, and was not transferred to the Pittsburgh Synod until 1891. Mission aid was generously given by the General Synod Board until self-support was reached May 27, 1900.

The site of the first church building was on East Apple street, where the Pennsylvania freight station now stands. It was bought from J. R. Balsley for $3,700. Here a brick church was erected at a cost of $9,153, but only the chapel was finished. This chapel was dedicated by Pastor L. L. Sieber March 6, 1887, but a debt of $7,711 remained to vex the congregation for many years. All sorts of devices were employed by the mission to raise money, and the last of the debt was not paid until 1905.

The second pastor of the mission was Dr. Upton A. Hankey, who endeared himself greatly to the congregation, but was finally compelled to resign because of ill health.

The third pastor was Dr. Ellis B. Burgess, who came to Connellsville on Decoration Day of 1895. His first concern was not the debt but the unfinished church. A fund of $4,085 was quickly raised, and the completed church was dedicated, December 8, 1895. The chief stress was laid on the spiritual interest of the children of Trinity; and the cradle roll of the Sunday School sometimes numbered as many as 186, every one of whom was a baptized Lutheran. This work among the children meant a growing Sunday School, which for several years was the largest and best organized in Fayette County.

The catechetical classes were uniformly large; and the congregation increased to more than one thousand members in 1919. The increasing membership soon demanded a larger church; and the decision was made to buy a new site and build a large church of native stone. This decision was reached unanimously, for the congregation had an unbroken rule that there must be no negative votes upon any question.

A lot on the corner of East Fairview avenue and Carnegie was bought for $12,500; and here a large stone church was built at a cost of $75,000. The cornerstone was laid July 3, 1910, and the church dedicated September 10, 1911. One of the features of the church is its resurrection chancel, admired by many. The old Apple street property was sold for $10,000, and the debt reduced to $15,000 in 1918.

After the resignation of the pastor, January 1, 1920, a parsonage on East Patterson avenue was bought for $6,500, and the two properties in the rear of the church for $5,600, but all this added debt as well as the old debt was paid during the pastorate of Dr. W. H. Hetrick. The confirmed membership was increased to approximately 1,600 during his pastorate.

Dr. W. H. Hetrick served until he was elected Pastor Emeritus in 1946, at which time the Rev. R. M. Langsdale was called as pastor. During the pastorate of Rev. Langsdale the basement was excavated at a cost of $40,000. The finished area is used for Sunday School class rooms and organizations meetings of the church. In 1947 Trinity began a radio ministry over radio station WCVI in Connellsville, and continued until 1954. Through this voice the preaching of the Gospel won many friends for the church. The congregation celebrated the 65th anniversary of the organization in 1949 with a week of services and meetings. In 1950 a Schulmerich system of tower chimes was installed.

In 1952 a Baldwin Electric Organ was purchased by a member of the congregation. Altars have been purchased by various members of the congregation and are used in the various Sunday School rooms. Additional ground east of the church was purchased, thus giving space for lawn and landscaping on two sides of the building. A parsonage was purchased in 1953, with the sale of the old parsonage furnishing part of the purchase price.

Trinity has aided the development of Home Missions with specific grants of $2,000.00 to St. Paul's Church, Carmichael's Pa., and $1,500.00 to the Church of the Good Shepherd, Garden City, Georgia. Pastor Langsdale resigned his pastorate in July, 1955, and was succeeded in November of the same year by Rev. H. Wahl Pfeifer. Throughout her history Trinity is unanimous in her support of local congregational actions and in various projects and apportionment goals of Synod.

The pastorates in their order have been as follows: L. L. Sieber, D. D., 1884-1890; U. A. Hankey, D. D., 1890-1894; E. B. Burgess, D. D., 1895-1920; W. H. Hetrick, D. D., 1920-1946; R. M. Langsdale, 1946-1955; H. Wahl Pfeifer, 1955 —.

Cookport Antioch 1890

REV. Samuel Krider, pastor of the Cookport Parish, held the first services in this community. He dedicated a small frame church and organized a congregation on November 16, 1890. The church building cost approximately $1,200.

This congregation remained small throughout its history. The membership in 1922 was 33 and in 1957 it was only 31 baptized, 27 confirmed, and 21 communing. Periodic repairs to the church building have kept it in good condition. In 1950 the 60th anniversary of the congregation was celebrated with several of the past pastors present for the occasion.

In 1956 a furnace was installed, a new altar was installed and the rest of the church completely redecorated.

Pastors who have served Antioch are: Samuel Krider, 1890-1895; J. M. Hankey, 1896-1897; George Trostle, 1898-1899; J. C. McGaughey, 1889-1902; W. G. Slonaker, 1903-1907; Mr. W. K. Williams (supply), 1908-1909; H. W. Maguire (supply), 1910-1914; Oscar Woods, 1915-1917; J. H. L. Trout, 1917; L. W. Slifer, 1921-1923; Frederick Stueber, 1924; J. L. Marvin, 1926-1927; W. G. Slonaker, 1929-1932; Rev. Will, 1933; C. F. Hildebrand, 1934-1936; Charles T. Schlotter, 1936-1941; H. Wahl Pfeifer, 1942-1943; Raymond E. Agnew, 1944-1946; E. J. Himes, 1946-1950; Donald B. Power (Lay Pastor), 1951-1953; Edward Keppeler and Thomas Cooper (Laymen), 1953-1955; Gene J. Abel (Seminarian), 1955-1957; Arthur B. Ackerman (Seminarian), 1957 —.

Cookport Bethel 1949

AS early as 1839 German families settled in this vicinity. Most of these families were of the Reformed faith, for they were in close touch with the Round Top Settlement and received the ministrations of the Reformed pastors of St. Paul's church. Pastors Johan Althaus and John Charles Henneman held German services for them in the Bookermyer schoolhouse.

In 1844 these Reformed people built and dedicated a log church, 22 x 30, with a high ceiling and an old fashioned wine-glass pulpit. When Pastor Henneman left in 1851 the congregation was so neglected that the entire organization disbanded.

On March 30, 1853, under the direction of Dr. Peter Sahm, they reorganized as St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. A constitution in harmony with the doctrinal basis of the synod, was adopted and signed.

The old log church served as their place of worship until 1875, when a frame church was dedicated by Pastor Leonard Wisehaupt on the second day of February, 1876. At this time the church changed its name from St. Peter's to Bethel. The lot on which it stands was not formerly transferred to the congregation until May 4, 1898. About the time of the dedication of the second church a second constitution was adopted. A new foundation was placed under the church in the fall of 1911, and the building was veneered with brick. New chancel furniture and pews were secured, and the interior of the church was completely renovated at a cost of $1,800. A service of rededication was held February 25, 1912, when Pastor Paul J. Tau was assisted by Pastor Wilmer A. Hartman.

Parish alignment has changed through the years. In 1883 the church was connected with Grove Chapel and St. John's. A parsonage was erected then at

Grove Chapel for the minister. In 1892 Grove Chapel and Bethel constituted the charge. At the present time the church is part of the Cookport Parish. In 1949 it was united with the Barslope Church and 1949 is now given as the date of organization.

Rev. Frederick Haer of First Church, Warren, is a son of the congregation. A number of women of the congregation have married into the clergy: Josephine Bence was married to Rev. Naus; Gertrude Haer married Rev. Ivan Fetterman; Ethel Lowman was married to Rev. Walter Kopp. Mrs. Ella Black Frech was for years president of the Pennsylvania W. C. T. U.

Pastors who have served this church are: Peter Sahm, 1853-1855; P. S. Nellis, 1858-1859; Henry Gathers, 1860-1862; W. S. Emery (supply), 1862; John Forthman, 1863-1864; Michael Colver, 1865-1867; Leonard Wisehaupt, 1869-1878; W. A. McCullough, 1879-1880; Amos Sell, 1884-1885; Reuben Smith, 1886-1890; John J. Hill (supply), 1890; J. W. Hutchison, 1890-1892; John Tomlinson, 1893-1899; J. M. Axe, 1900-1903; J. K. Hilty, 1904-1906; S. A. Shaulis, 1908-1909; J. M. Stover, 1909-1911; P. J. Tau, 1911-1915; H. H. Flick, 1917-1920; L. W. Slifer, 1921-1925; E. B. Hanks, (no dates given); C. F. Hildebrand, 1934-1936; Charles T. Schlotter, 1936-1941; H. Wahl Pfeifer, 1942-1943; Raymond Agnew, 1944-1946; Reinhold Weber, (no dates given); E. J. Himes, 1946-1950; Donald B. Power (Lay pastor), 1951-1953; Edward Keppeler and Thomas Cooper (Laymen), 1953-1955; Gene Abel (seminarian), 1955-1957; Arthur B. Ackerman (seminarian), 1957 —.

Cookport Redeemer 1853

IN 1828 John Learn, Sr. moved from Armstrong County to settle in the vicinity of Cookport. He established what was to be known as the "Learn Settlement." He and his wife were members of the German Reformed Church, but they had to forgo the privileges of the church for many years in their new home. In 1839 John Learn, with several others in the community, secured a German Reformed pastor named Barnes who held occasional services until 1842. A few years later, despairing of ever securing a German Reformed pastor again, Father Learn, as he was affectionately called, consulted with Rev. Peter Sahm, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Indiana. Pastor Sahm became interested and organized a congregation October 23, 1853. Twenty nine persons communed at this organization service.

Rev. Christian Fetzer conducted his services first in what was known as the "Old Frame Schoolhouse," and in an adjacent grove when nice weather brought out an unusually large crowd. Later he preached in a union church built by the Reformed, Lutherans, and Methodists. During the pastorate of P. S. Nellis some dissatisfaction arose with the Methodists about the use of the union church, and the Lutherans decided to build a church of their own.

On January 11, 1859 Andrew Learn, son of John Learn, Sr., deeded an acre of land for church purposes. The timber for a new church was cut by the members of the congregation in the spring of the same year, but due to the removal of their pastor in April building operations were suspended, and the church was not finished until five years later. During that time services were held in an old house and barn belonging to Andrew Learn.

On October 8, 1863 Rev. John Forthman became pastor. The congregation again took up the task of building. The church, which was of frame, 40 x 50, was dedicated in 1864 at a cost of $500. In 1885 it was greatly improved at a cost

of several hundred dollars. The pastor, Rev. Reuben Smith, was assisted by Rev. Michael Colver at the rededication service held August 23, 1885.

In 1893, during the pastorate of Samuel Krider, the church was destroyed by fire. A lack of finances retarded the building of a new church. The congregation worshipped in the M. P. Church before removing to their own unfinished building which was erected on the foundation of the former church. The building was not completed for many years and the dedication took place finally on November 17, 1901 during the pastorate of J. C. McGaughey. This building cost about $1,500 and was dedicated debt free.

A semi-centennial, commemorating the adoption of the constitution, was celebrated September 7 and 8, 1905. The sermon was delivered by the former pastor Reuben Smith. When, in 1908, the congregation had been without a pastor of a year, the Pittsburgh Synod sent pastor W. K. Williams of Wittenberg College to supply the parish. In December of that year, with the help of Rev. J. C. N. Park of Indiana, evangelistic services were held, which resulted in thirty-eight accessions to the church.

After the death of Rev. E. J. Himes in December, 1950 the church was served by laymen and seminarians. During the summer of 1952 the interior of the church was redecorated and furnished. A rededication service was held on August 3 of that year.

Through the years this church was known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cookport. In 1957, however, the name was changed to the Church of the Redeemer.

Pastors who have served this church are: Peter Sahm, 1853-1855; Christian Fetzer, 1855-1857; P. S. Nellis, 1857-1859; Jacob Wolf (supply), 1859; Henry Gathers, 1860-1862; John Forthman, 1863-1864; Michael Colver, 1865-1867; Leonard Wisehaupt, 1869-1879; M. O. T. Sahm, 1880-1884; Reuben Smith, 1885-1886; Samuel Krider, 1889-1895; J. M. Hankey, 1896-1897; George Trostle, 1898-1899; J. C. McGaughey, 1899-1902; W. G. Slonaker, 1903-1907; W. K. Williams, 1908-1909; Oscar Woods, 1915-1917; J. H. L. Trout, 1917; L. W. Slifer, 1921-1923; Frederick Stueber, 1924; J. L. Marvin, 1926-1927; W. G. Slonaker, 1929-1932; Rev. Will, 1933; C. F. Hildebrand, 1934-1936; Charles T. Schlotter, 1936-1941; H. Wahl Pfeifer, 1942-1943; Raymond E. Agnew, 1944-1946; E. J. Himes, 1946-1950; Donald B. Power (Lay pastor), 1951-1953; Edward Keppeler and Thomas Cooper (Laymen), 1953-1955; Gene J. Abel (Seminarian), 1955-1957; Arthur B. Ackerman (Seminarian), 1957 —.

Corry St. Paul's 1871

(See Plate 9)

CORRY was founded about 1860. Lutheran services were held here as early as 1867 by Rev. C. F. Boehner of the Lake Shore Mission, but no organization effected. In 1869 the Pittsburgh Synod made a missionary appropriation of $500 and Rev. Carl Jaeckel of New Castle was asked to give half his time to Corry. He held his first service in a schoolhouse October 14, 1870. He organized a congregation of 44 members in January, 1871.

The constitution recommended by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania was adopted, and a charter secured "binding the congregation to the Pittsburgh Synod." A lot was bought for $650 and a generous subscription secured for the building of a church. When Pastor Jaeckel resigned at the close of his first year, chiefly because of the dissatisfaction of the New Castle church, officials found it difficult to secure a successor with the result that the lot was surrendered and the building program abandoned.

Rev. Michael Schweigert was commissioned as the missionary in 1872. Then, however, came the financial panic of 1873 when so many financial losses occured in the parish that Pastor Schweigert gave up the work. Soon after the meeting of synod in 1874 the field was visited by the missionary superintendent in company with Rev. Michael Kuchler with the result that Pastor Kuchler took charge of the mission. He gave services in German every alternate Sunday until 1879. In the early spring of 1875 he reorganized the congregation on the basis of the constitution and charter of 1871, 24 persons attending the first communion service. With new hope the congregation bought a corner lot, 66 x 100 in November of 1875 for $500. The final payment was not made until 1881, when the deed was secured. The corner-stone of the church was laid in May, 1876 and the building was dedicated by Pastor Kuchler June 3, 1877. It was not a large church, 26 x 40, and cost $1,600; but it gave great encouragement to the little congregation of 50 members.

Pastor Kuchler's successor was Rev. Herman Gilbert who gave the same amount of time and service to the mission as his predecessor. It was plain to all, however, that no mission church could be properly developed under these conditions, the pastor living in Greenville. The pastor himself recommended that Corry be added to some other point to form a regular parish. This was done in June, 1885 when Rev. J. H. Orr took charge of the congregation in connection with Meadville. Inasmuch as the original constitution could not be found, a new one was adopted at the beginning of his pastorate. The pastor attempted to hold English services in the evening, but they were soon discontinued because of lack of interest.

Pastor Orr resigned January 1, 1888 and Drake's Mill then united with Corry to form a self-sustaining parish. The new parish extended a call to Rev. Gustave A. Benze who became the first resident pastor. He demonstrated that there was a field for the Lutheran church in Corry. He organized a thriving English Sunday School and also a Danish Church of 100 members. His successor was Rev. E. J. Meissner, under whose direction a frame parsonage was erected on the rear of the church lot at a cost of $1,000. He resigned in 1894 and was succeeded by Rev. Jens Peter Hansen.

From 1897 to 1902 Corry and Johnsonburg were served together by Pastor Schmalenbach. Then the synod consented to make a missionary appropriation of $175 to Corry on condition that English work alone be prosecuted. This condition was satisfactory to the congregation, for they realized that they had not made the fullest provision for their young people and had suffered loss in consequence. The

missionary pastors who served under this arrangement were Rev. R. E. McDaniel and Rev. N. N. Harter. Progress was so slow that some regarded it as a forlorn hope.

Pastor William Hall came October 24, 1909. His patient and thorough work gradually raised the congregation to a position of self-support. The discouragements were many and great, but one by one they were overcome. The future of the church was assured. At one time Pastor Hall resigned, but the congregation soon recalled him that he might be their leader in the building of a worthy church.

The old church was razed and a new building erected. This new building was dedicated by Pastor Hall February 11, 1923. It was built of concrete, art stone, and Rosecraft brick, 42 x 72 with a castellated corner tower at a cost of $34,000. The interior was furnished according to Lutheran ideals and equipped with a two-manual Hillgren-Lane pipe organ. The basement was well finished and equipped for Sunday School work. Two devoted members of the congregation, Henry and Harrison Keppel, each gave $10,000 toward the building fund, making it possible for the congregation to dedicate their church with comparatively little debt. The dedicatory services took place on Sunday afternoon, the addresses being made by Dr. Felix V. Hanson of Jamestown and Dr. G. A. Benze of Erie.

Dr. William Hall says in the Historical Events, "In the year 1920 — owing to the location of a new industry in Corry, the membership was enlarged and encouraged by the arrival in our midst of a considerable number of Swedish brethren of our own household of faith from the Lutheran Church of Jamestown, N. Y." Undoubtedly this is a reference to Mr. and Mrs. David A. Hillstrom and those families which came with them and founded the Corry-Jamestown Mfg. Corp. The Hillstroms were prime movers in the building of the new church in 1923 and the new parsonage in 1953. Pastor Hall resigned in 1933. He and Mrs. Hall lived on in Corry. He died on April 29, 1944 and was buried in Pine Grove cemetery, Corry May 2, 1944.

The Rev. Edward L. Wagner became Pastor on November 16, 1933. In September of 1941 the old parsonage in back of the church was taken over for a Parish House for the growing Sunday School. On April 17, 1942 Pastor Wagner resigned to enter the chaplaincy of the United States Army on April 29, 1942.

In October of 1942 the house 313 E. Pleasant Street was purchased for a parsonage at the cost of $3,800. On December 1, 1942 the Reverend Clinton F. Hildebrand was installed by the Reverend Sheldon S. Schweikert, President of the Erie Conference. The church was redecorated and minor improvements were made at the cost of $1,700, and the 75th Anniversary was celebrated.

A call was extended to the Reverend Harry S. Bowman of Trinity Church, Runnemede, N. J. In 1948 the congregation embarked on an Improvement Program for both church and parsonage. The cost was estimated at $6,000. Pastor Bowman came on September 1 and was installed by Dr. H. Reed Shepfer on September 8. In addition to the improvements of the parsonage which cost $1,500 the chancel of the church was remodeled with wrought iron pulpit and communion rails, oak reredos and brocaded dossal curtain and larger choir loft. The entire church was redecorated, and wrought iron lanterns were hung in the nave, and new carpets were laid. On April 2, 1949 the church was rededicated. The total cost of the Improvement Program mounted to more than $10,000.

In November of 1948 the congregation raised, in four days, $1,860 for a station wagon for Bethesda Children's Home. In the same year the Lutheran Fellowship was organized and The Treon Society organized a nursery. The Altar Guild was organized in 1949 and in 1951 organ chimes were installed. In January of 1951

the 80th Anniversary was celebrated with Dr. G. L. Himmelman as the preacher. At this service the note for $11,000 for the Improvement Program was burned. The first Daily Vacation Church was organized in 1949. Pastor Bowman resigned on January 25, 1952. At a congregational meeting his resignation was accepted on February 3, 1952 to be effective February 29, 1952. At this meeting Mr. D. A. Hillstrom offered a motion that the congregation build a new parsonage. The motion was adopted.

The Reverend Elmer A. Ortner, D. D., was called on March 20, 1952. He began his ministry on June 1 and was installed by Dr. G. L. Himmelman on June 16 of the same year. Plans for a new parsonage were made the same year but they were laid aside because the lowest bid was $46,000 which was considered exhorbitant. New plans were selected and revised with Mr. Alton Dahlstrand as the parsonage committee chairman. Mr. A. W. Harmon was engaged as the general contractor. The old parsonage was sold for $7,500. The new parsonage which was located at 519 E. South Street was staked off on April 28, 1953. Ground was broken on May 1 and on December 12 the new parsonage was dedicated when Dr. G. L. Himmelman preached the sermon. The parsonage family moved into the new house on December 23 in a blinding snow storm. On the first day of January, 1954 Pastor and Mrs. Ortner were "At Home" to the members of the congregation and their friends. Hundreds of people came to inspect the beautifully decorated and planned new parsonage which cost more than $35,000. The debt was less than $12,000 and by April of 1956 was less than $8,500. In 1955 the confirmed membership of St. Paul's exceeded 500 which is the real crown of glory to be laid upon the 44 Saints who gathered together to begin St. Paul's in January of 1871.

The following ministers served St. Paul's: Carl Jaeckel, 1871; Michael Schweigert, 1872-1873; Isaac Brenneman (supply), 1873-1874; Michael Kuchler, 1874-1879; Herman Gilbert, 1879-1885; J. H. Orr, 1885-1888; G. A. Benze, 1888-1891; E. J. Meissner, 1891-1894; J. P. Hansen, 1894-1896; Joseph Schmalenbach, 1897-1902; R. E. McDaniel, Ph. D., 1902-1907; N. N. Harter, 1907-1909; William Hall, 1909-1933; Edward L. Wagner, 1933-1942; Clinton F. Hildebrand, 1942-1948; Harry S. Bowman, 1948-1952; Elmer A. Ortner, D. D., 1952 —.

Coudersport St. Paul's 1886

AS early as the year 1850 a number of Germans came to Potter County and engaged in the lumber industry. Their numbers were gradually augmented until 1880, when there were between thirty and forty families. As the lumber industry of the region declined a number of them removed to other places, but others took up farming lands in the valley and became permanent citizens.

When Rev. Julius Herman Voss became the missionary of the ministerium of Pennsylvania in the Germania Settlement, he held occasional services for the Germans of this community in the schoolhouse at Olmstead. These services were continued through a period of three or four years, but resulted in no permanent organization. At the instigation of W. A. Passavant, Pastor John Sander of Ridgway visited Coudersport, September 23-24, 1884, but could not find sufficient interest to justify the holding of a service. During his second visit October 26, 1884, the first Lutheran service of Coudersport was held in the Presbyterian Church.

After an appropriation of $400 by the Pittsburgh Synod the Rev. H. C. Grossman entered the field and organized a German-English congregation of 71 members, May

ALIQUIPPA, Pennsylvania HOUSE OF PRAYER

Free Standing Altar

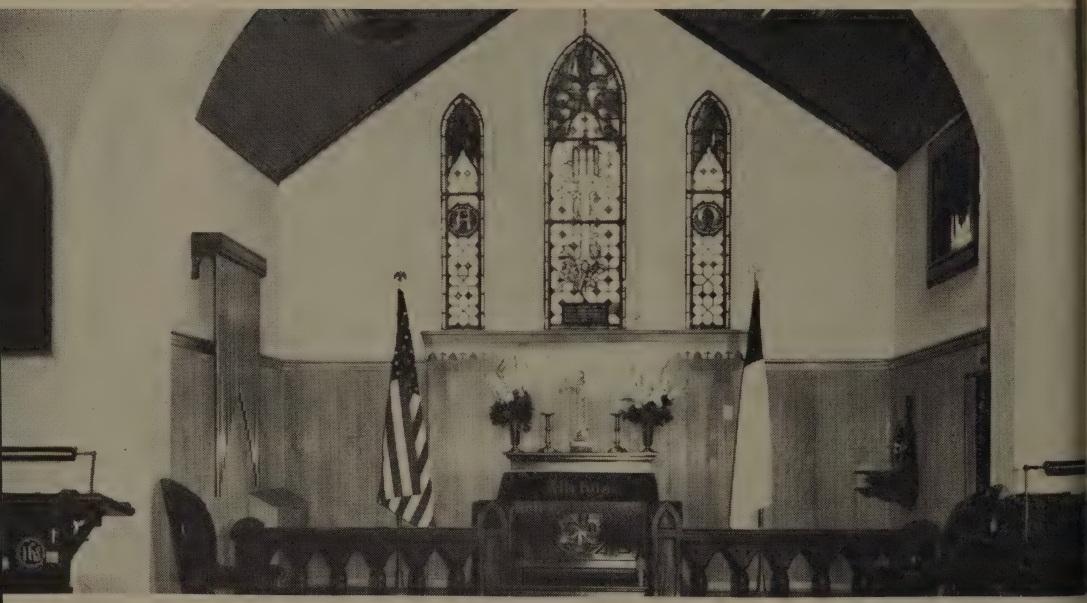
FOUNDED 1875

Plate 1

APOLLO, Pennsylvania

FIRST

FOUNDED 1859



BADEN, Pennsylvania

CHRIST

Altar, Pulpit, Lectern, Altar Rail used by Dr. Wm. A. Passavant, Founder, in old Church.

FOUNDED 1858

BEAVER FALLS, Pennsylvania CHRIST

FOUNDED 1886

Plate 3

BELLEVUE, Pennsylvania EMANUEL'S

Altar and Distinctive Window

FOUNDED 1886

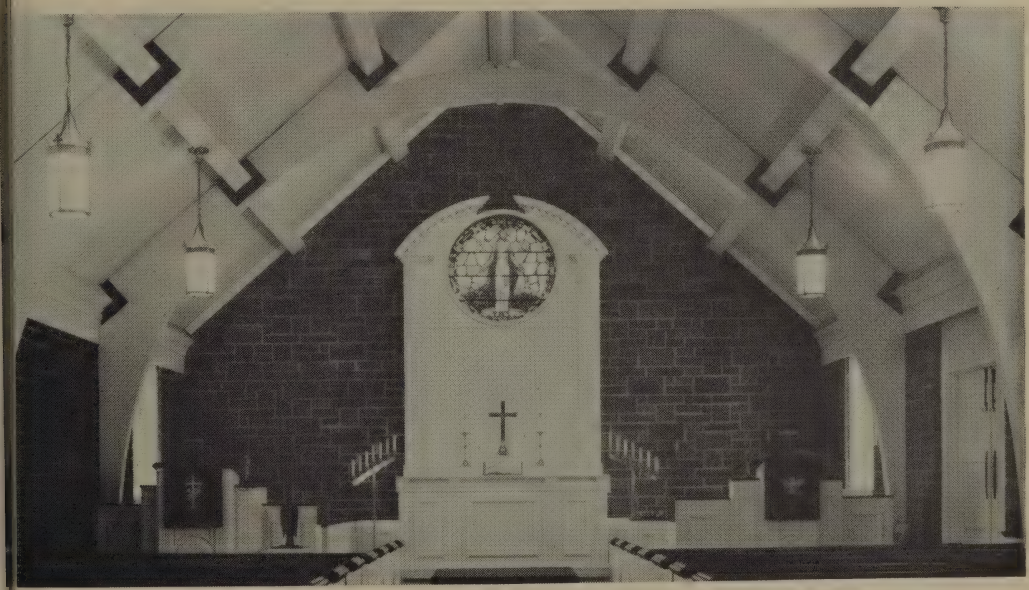
Plate 4

BRIDGEPORT, Ohio

TRINITY

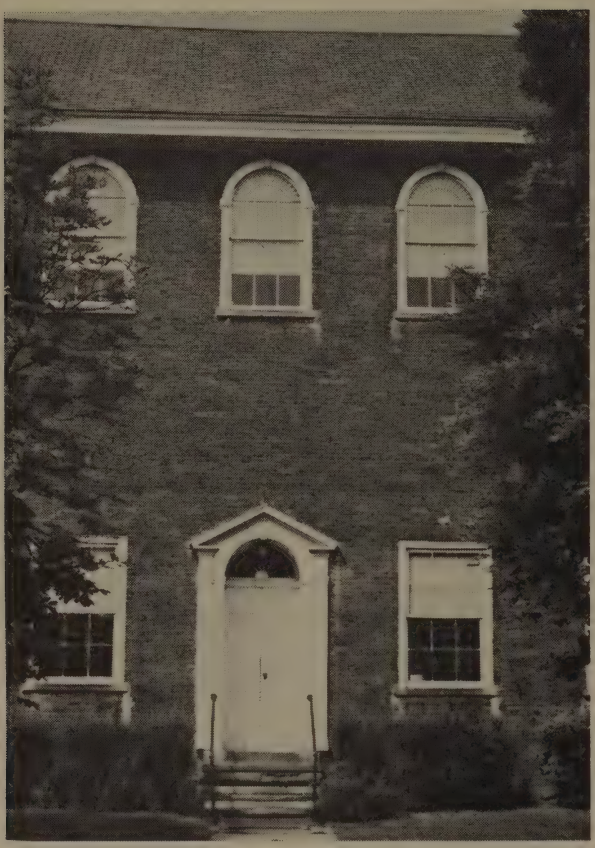
FOUNDED 1897

Present Building
A Chapel Built
in 1904.



BERKELEY HILLS, Pennsylvania UNITED LUTHERAN

FOUNDED 1947



HISTORIC BRUSH CRE

EVANGELICAL LUTHER
CHURCH

FOUNDED 1773

Main Entrance
Constructed 1816-1820

Chancel View

Replaced Original Wine Glass Pulpit about 1870

Plate 6

BUTLER, Pennsylvania

GRACE

FOUNDED 1890

CARMICHAELS, Pennsylvania

ST. PAUL'S

Only Synodical Lutheran Church in Greene County

FOUNDED 1948

Plate 7

CHARLEROI, Pennsylvania CHRIST
FOUNDED 1901

NEW CASTLE, Pennsylvania ST. JOHN'S
FOUNDED 1895

16, 1886. Services were also held by Pastor Grossman in the Schaudenberger schoolhouse near Mina, in order to satisfy the Germans of the lower valley. His plan was to organize a parish of three congregations, located at Coudersport, Olmstead, and Roulette, but this could not be effected. His successor was Pastor E. J. Meissner, who encouraged them to secure a lot on the corner of Allegheny Avenue and Borie Street at a cost of $500, and build a small frame church. The cornerstone was laid September 18, 1887, and the church dedicated by Pastor Meissner August 5, 1888. While they were in the building spirit a frame parsonage was built on the rear of the church lot at a cost of $500. Large donations kept down the cost of both buildings.

During the pastorate of Rev. William Weicksel, 1881-1895, preaching stations at Sweden Valley and Roulette were abandoned, and congregations at Mina and Costello were organized. A frame church was built in Mina in 1894, but was later abandoned. During the pastorate of Rev. W. F. Mosser there were large accessions to the parish, and it became self-sustaining; but the decline of the lumber industry and the removal of many families made the church a mission again after 1917.

The church was remodelled during the pastorate of Rev. I. H. Stetler, and rededicated by him April 20, 1902. A Sunday School annex was built at a cost of $4,200 in 1923 and dedicated by Pastor Nathanael Scheffer December 20, 1923. Improvements were made to the parsonage at the same time, in which the Ladies' Aid Society had a large part.

The church and parsonage were renovated and rededicated on September 8, 1940 under Pastor Rev. C. W. Schirmer at a cost of about $2,200. St. Paul's at Coudersport became self-sustaining again in 1945. In February of 1954 the men of the church started to finish the basement under the Sunday School room, and in the furnace room. By May of that year the concrete floors were done. The following year, during the winter months, the walls were plastered and electric lights installed.

The pastors served in the following order: H. C. Grossman, 1886; E. J. Meissner, 1887-1890; William Weichsel, 1891-1985; W. F. Mosser, 1896-1898; I. H. Stetler, 1898-1907; E. O. Graham, 1908-1910; C. K. Spiggle, 1911-1912; J. V. Sappenfield, 1913-197; Student A. W. Trumpeter (supply) 1918; Student A. C. P. Hays (supply) 1919; Nathanael Scheffer, 1920-1926; J. M. Axe, 1926-1930; John O. Woods, 1931-1935; Chester S. Bird. 1936-1938; C. W. Schirmer, 1938-1943; C. L. Hunt, 1944-Died same year; J. W. Drawbaugh, 1945-1950; James F. Cook, 1951-1953; Mr. Kenneth M. Stoll, a licensed lay preacher of the Augustana Synod at Port Allegany, Pa., supplied the pulpit from January 1, 1954 to May 1954; James D. Percy, 1954-1957; Patrick A. L. Maier, 1958 —.

Crafton St. Matthew's 1903

THE adjoining towns of Crafton and Ingram were canvassed by Student J. H. Keller during the summer of 1901, but not sufficient interest was found to justify an organization. Student Robert D. Clare spent the summer of 1902 in the community with similar results. During the summer of 1903 Student William H. Hetrick ministered to a few Lutherans in this community. On September 3, 1903, St. Matthew's was organized with 18 members. Pastors John Weidley, A. J. Turkle, and S. T. Nicholas had charge of the organization service. The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod assumed the care of the congregation as their special mission and provided generous assistance for ten years, when on October 1, 1913, St. Matthew's became self-supporting.

A lot was secured on Steuben Street, on which a neat brick chapel was built at a cost of $8,500. The cornerstone was laid September 24, 1905, and the church was dedicated by Pastor William E. Brown, March 18, 1906. During the pastorate of Milton E. McLinn, the chapel was raised and improved at a cost of $1,600. A fine property on Noble avenue was bought for $12,500 in 1920, and a lot on Division street for $5,000 in 1924. One side of this Noble Avenue house was occupied by Robert S. Miller as a parsonage, and the other side was rented in order to finance the venture.

A fine stone church was erected and dedicated May 31, 1941 by Pastor Alvin E. Teichert. The cost of the church was $100,000 and it was paid in full within three years from the time it was dedicated. This was the only church built in the synod in 1941. From May, 1941 to October, 1944 Pastor Teichert was in military service, serving as Division Chaplain of the 66th Infantry Division. During his absence the church was served by Dr. E. B. Burgess who was retired and living in Crafton at the time.

St. Matthew's has been served by the following pastors: W. E. Brown, 1904-1907; Charles Lambert, 1907-1909; M. E. McLinn, 1910-1919; R. S. Miller, 1921-1927; Alvin E. Teichert, 1928-1941; E. B. Burgess (supply), 1941-1944; Alvin E. Teichert (returned from army service), 1944 —.

Delmont (Export) Emmanuel 1820

WHEN the land office of the state was opened for the disposition of the acquired lands, April 3, 1769, there were German pioneers ready to take out warrants for land in what is now known as Franklin Township. Within the next ten years, a number of others were ready to follow. Robert Hayes settled here in 1769; one of the Berlins in 1774; and Michael Rugh in 1775. Because of its exposed position in the northern portion of Westmoreland, this settlement suffered more at the hands of Indian marauders than those in the central part.

"Robert Hayes and his son were taken captive by the Indians and held for three years. In 1778 Michael Rugh and his family were also carried away. They were first carried to Venango, later to Canada, and were held in captivity three years. After their release they were sent to New York, and from there returned home. Jacob Berlin came to this section of country in 1794, when troops were sent into Westmoreland County to put down the Whiskey Insurrection. He came

first on a visit to his uncle, who had settled here many years before, was pleased with the county and settled here soon afterwards. He is the grandancestor of the well known Berlin family in this county.

While this was a good settlement, no church was organized for a number of years. One reason was because the people were widely scattered; many, however, attended services at other places, some at Manor Church, others at Beamer's and Hankey's. Services were also held for years in private houses and schoolhouses. There was a provisional organization for some time before a permanent one was effected. Emmanuel Church was organized in 1820, after which more frequent services were held. For several years services were held in the old log building, which had been used as a block house. This old log house was a landmark in this community, as it had served the fathers as a fort and also as a place of worship."*

The majority of the German pioneers in this community were members of the Reformed Church, and that denomination retains this advantage. The first effort to secure a church was made in 1828, when Philip Drum and Peter Hill donated the ground for a church and cemetery. All labor and materials were donated by the members, so that it was finished and furnished without debt.

When this building became too small in 1848, an addition of fourteen feet was made to the end, and the entire building weatherboarded and put in good repair. About eleven years later it was decided to build a brick church and a contract was let, September 12, 1856, for $2,000. This church was dedicated by Pastors Jonas Mechling and Nicholas P. Hacke on Easter Sunday, 1858.

For the first twenty-three years this church was connected with Greensburg Parish; from 1843 to 1847 it was connected with the old Klingensmith Church under the care of Pastor Jacob Zimmerman. After the death of Rev. Jonas Mechling in 1868, and during the pastorate of Rev. J. S. Fink, frequent English services were introduced and the congregation was received into the Pittsburgh Synod. In 1868 the parish was reduced to three churches; and in more recent years has been restricted to Emmanuel and Salem.

"By an article of Agreement, dated September 22, 1883, the dispute between the Lutheran and Reformed congregations of Hill's Church was adjusted, and the Lutherans sold their interest to the Reformed people and removed to Export. A lot was secured from Mr. John Duff, alongside of the old log church known as "The Tent". It may be interesting to know why this old historic place was called "The Tent". Grandmother Holloway, of blessed memory, used to tell that, long before the church was built, a tent was erected in which services were held, and that she often worshipped there. Hence the place, as well as the log church, was called "The Tent". *

The cornerstone of the church, erected on the new site, was laid by Rev. J. W. Myers in 1884; and the completed church was dedicated, October 30, 1884. Dr. Edmund Belfour and Rev. D. M. Kemerer assisted the pastor on this occasion. A new constitution was adopted, April 11, 1885, at which time the congregation numbered about 30 members. One of the most successful and encouraging pastorates in the history of this church was that of Rev. Ludwig Beisecker. Under his ministry there were large accessions to the membership and many needed improvements were made to the property.

In 1952 the congregation began a renovation program of the church building which was carried over the next several years in order that the congregation might

* Ulery's History of the Southern Conference, page 194.

remain debt free. The complete interior and exterior of the church building were rebuilt with the placement of an excavated basement under the existing building. A new church kitchen was installed and an interior stairway between the two levels was enclosed. The congregation numbers 225 baptized members.

The following is a list of the church's pastors: John M. Steck, 1820-1830; M. J. Steck, 1830-1843; Jacob Zimmerman, 1843-1847; Daniel Maier, 1847-1849; Jonas Mechling, 1851-1868; J. S. Fink, 1868-1874; J. A. Scheffer, 1875-1876; J. A. Bauman, 1876-1877; Enoch Smith, 1877; W. F. Ulery, 1877-1878; V. B. Christy, 1878-1879; A. D. Potts, 1879-1883; J. W. Myers, 1883-1886; C. L. Holloway; 1886-1891; Philip Doerr, 1891-1897; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1897-1902; Ludwig Beisecker, 1902-1907; C. E. Dozer, 1908-1912; C. K. Spiggle, 1912-1921; H. R. Shepfer, 1922-1925; F. C. Snyder, 1925-1936; R. C. Lauffenburger, 1936-1944; K. N. Schott, 1944-1948; R. F. Parker, 1948-1952; J. W. Hanks, 1953 —.

Delmont — Salem — 1850

(See Plate 9)

LUTHERANS have lived in this community since the time of the first settlements; but made no attempt to organize a church for more than sixty years. These pioneers were willing to walk eight miles to Greensburg to receive the sacrament, and their successors considered themselves well cared for when Denmark Manor Church was established within four miles in 1808. Those families living in the extreme north end of the present parish were accustomed to attend services in St. James.

The first Lutheran pastor to hold services in Delmont was Rev. M. J. Steck, but his regular appointments were already so many that he did not advise a new organization. When Rev. John Rugan became his assistant in Greensburg in 1847, he was urged to give special attention to this part of the field, and began to hold services in the Methodist Church. Pastor Rugan continued to serve them until 1849, when he was succeeded by Pastor Michael Eyster.

As soon as he was firmly established in the parish, plans were laid by the Lutherans and Reformed for the building of a church. This church was built of brick, 40 x 60, at a cost of $1,250, and was dedicated September 11, 1850; the officiating ministers were Pastors Hacke, Giese, and Weinel of the Reformed, and Pastors Eyster, Zimmerman, Rugan, and Earhart of the Lutherans. Salem Church was organized in the dedicated building, September 27, 1850, with thirty-six members. The field was ripe, and Pastor Eyster was able to build up a congregation of ninety-five members within two years.

The year 1868 marked the period of the synodical controversy, when there was a sharp division of sentiment in Salem Church; but the congregation in the end espoused the cause of the General Council.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. English that the Reformed congregation built a church of their own, leaving the Lutherans in possession of the old union church. The condition of the old church was so bad, however, that the Lutherans were soon compelled to choose between a new church and extensive repairs. The former policy was adopted, and the cornerstone of a new church was laid, June 24, 1868, but the church was only partly finished when Pastor English resigned.

It was dedicated by Pastor V. B. Christy January 19, 1870, when the sermon was preached by Dr. W. A. Passavant. It was a two-story brick structure, 45 x 65, finished and furnished at a cost of $6,000. Much credit was due to Pastor Christy

for the way in which he managed the affairs of Salem Church during those trying days. At the close of his pastorate in 1876, Delmont and Denmark Manor were united to form a parish.

During the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Bauman, 1876-1877, the Church Book of the General Council was introduced without opposition; during that of Rev. John D. Roth the basement was fitted up for Sunday School purposes; during that of Rev. J. W. Myers a parsonage was erected on ground adjoining the church; during that of Rev. C. L. Holloway the church was furnished with stained glass windows.

Gradual growth in membership over the years, during the able leadership of many pastors, made the people realize that the present facilities were not adequate to accommodate the growing Sunday School. After facing the possibilities of building a new parsonage or purchasing a recently constructed modern brick home, thus making use of the old parsonage as increased facilities of a Parish House, the congregation voted to purchase the already constructed house at Highland and Second Streets. The purchase was made on May 21, 1954, at the cost of $17,000. With the increase of the building of new homes in the area, the church continues to grow with the baptized membership figure at 531.

The pastorates in their order were as follows: Michael Eyster, 1850-1852; J. N. Burket, 1852-1853; C. H. Hersh, 1853-1856; Aaron Yetter, 1856-1866; J. D. English, 1866-1868; V. B. Christy, 1868-1876; J. A. Bauman, 1876-1877; A. D. Potts, 1877; J. D. Roth, 1878-1882; J. W. Myers, 1882-1886; C. L. Holloway, 1886-1891; Philip Doerr, 1891-1897; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1897-1902; Ludwig Beisecker, 1902-1907; C. E. Dozer, 1908-1912; C. K. Spiggle, 1912-1921; H. R. Shepfer, 1922-1925; F. C. Snyder, 1925-1936; R. C. Lauffenburger, 1936-1944; K. N. Schott, 1944-1948; R. F. Parker, 1948-1952; J. W. Hanks, 1953 —.

Derry Trinity 1845

THE roots of Trinity Church, Derry, are found in the congregation established at New Derry many years in advance.

Services were held in New Derry as early as 1847 by the Lutheran pastor the Rev. A. Babb, pastor of the Lutheran Church at Blairsville. He and his successors continued to hold services here occasionally until 1853, when a congregation was organized and a plain frame church built. The first congregation was organized at this time.

After the boundary line between the Alleghany Synod and the Pittsburgh Synod was determined, the Blairsville pastors discontinued their work here, and ministers of the Pittsburgh Synod took it up. The congregation was supplied by pastors from Blairsville until 1862. Some of the pastors supplying Trinity Church for the first ten years of its history were: W. A. Passavant, John Welfley, and W. F. Ulery. In 1862 New Derry, Fennelton, and New Alexandria were constituted a mission and the Rev. J. S. Renninger was called as missionary; he took charge of this field in the Spring of 1863, and resigned January 1, 1864. In this same year, New Derry was united with the Ligonier parish.

When the Rev. J. L. Smith became pastor of the Ligonier parish, he found that Derry Station was a more promising field than the town of New Derry, hence he advised the change in location. In the Spring of 1883 a lot was purchased for $325.00, and preparations were made to build. This action was resented by a minority group in the congregation, who sought the fellowship of the General Synod

as the original New Derry Church. The congregation of the minority was admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod in 1888, was served by the Rev. J. H. Wright for several years, but finally disbanded in 1897.

The local dispute was carried into court, where a verdict was given in favor of the majority group. In spite of this legal decision the minority congregation continued to use the old New Derry property, and were not molested by the Derry congregation. The cornerstone of the new building was laid November 10th, the 400th anniversary of Luther's birth. The building was dedicated by Pastor J. L. Smith on August 9, 1884. The church building was of frame construction, 33 x 55 in size and was the finest structure in the town at the time. The total cost of ground, building and furnishings was $3,000.00. As a part of the Ligonier Parish, services were held every two weeks in the afternoon. This was not conducive to development, and it was made a separate mission parish after the resignation of Pastor Smith in 1892.

On May 8, 1892, the Rev. George G. Ruff, of the Mt. Airy Seminary, was elected pastor. It was in this same year that the congregation was granted a charter and a constitution was adopted. A Ladies' Aid Society and a Luther League were organized and proved helpful auxiliaries. Zion Church of Bradenville was organized by Pastor Ruff April 15, 1895, but this congregation disbanded about the year 1907. Hillside was another preaching point for a short time.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Wilson Yeisley that memorial windows were placed in the church and that a parsonage was purchased in 1900 for $2,500.00.

On May 22, 1902, the Rev. Willis Beck was called and served until February 26th, 1905. During the pastorate of the Rev. Willis Beck, additional improvements to the church building were made, and a service of rededication was held June 19, 1904.

The Rev. W. A. Zundel was called and took charge May 1, 1924. It was during his pastorate that plans for a new church building and relocating were begun and carried-out. The first action of the congregation looking forward toward a new edifice was taken on November 2, 1924, when a financial policy was adopted. On January 1, 1926, the pastor, in his annual report, recommended that the congregation proceed to raise funds for a new church building. Soon there-after appropriate committees were set up to accomplish the perparatory work necessary for a new building. On April 2, 1926, the congregation decided to build a new church. Ground was formally broken on May 16, 1926, after the morning service. The cornerstone was laid on September 26, 1926. On May 22, 1927, the new church building was dedicated. The pastorate of the Rev. William A. Zundel ended November 30, 1930.

It was during the pastorate of George D. Wolfe the debt of the new church was liquidated.

The following ministers served Trinity: J. S. Renninger, 1863-1864; D. Worley, 1865-1866; J. L. Smith, 1866-1874; A. D. Potts, 1874-1875; H. L. McMurray, 1876-1882; J. L. Smith, 1882-1892; George G. Ruff, 1892-1899; Wilson Yeisley, 1899-1902; Willis Beck, 1902-1905; Gomer B. Matthews, 1905-1906; Jonathan Sarver, D. D., 1907-1912; H. D. Whitteker, 1913-1917; Frederick Will, 1917-1918; J. J. Brubeck, 1918-1919; J. Melanchton Weber, 1920-1923; W. A. Zundel, 1924-1930; Albert G. Fischer, 1931-1946; George D. Wolfe, 1946-1950; William O. Bradley, 1950-1957; Herbert N. Brant, 1957 —.

Detroit, Michigan St. Peter's 1930

ST. PETER'S German and Saxon Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized, after three months of preliminary canvassing on February 22, 1930 with a confirmed membership of 141. The same afternoon St. Paul's German and Saxon Evangelical Lutheran Church of Windsor, Ontario was organized. Rev. J. Teutsch was pastor of both congregations. In 1933 the property at the corner of Glenfield and Reseberry was purchased and the foundation was laid for the future St. Peter's Church. The one hundred year old farmhouse on the property was converted, by the members, into a parsonage. When, in 1932, the Bank crash came, eighty percent of the members lost their jobs and their homes. Some moved to other cities. The confirmed membership dropped to 96. However, when the country recovered from the depression, the membership increased again. By 1941 St. Peter's had 173 confirmed members.

More than once the disbanding of the congregation seemed likely. Something had to be done to prove that the congregation was here to stay. In 1941 the pastor with two faithful members of the church counsel, undertook a house to house canvass among the members to determine who favored completing the church and building a new parsonage. Many meetings were held. Finally, in the presence of Dr. Philip Mullen, then mission superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, and Dr. G. Schneider, editor of the Transylvanian American Journal, the motion was made and passed that the building program be completed as originally planned.

In February of 1942 the parsonage, and in May of the same year, the church were completed. Because of the enthusiasm shown during the building program additional burdens were assumed: pews were placed in the church and a new pipe organ was installed. On Mothers Day of 1942 St. Peter's was dedicated. From that time on the church has grown continually. Improvements have been made: a new and beautiful altar was installed; the altar room was panelled; and all Sunday School rooms were tiled.

Since World War II the membership has more than tripled. The congregation has today more than 650 confirmed members and a total baptized membership of 800. Rev. John Teutsch, the first pastor, is still serving St. Peter's.

Donegal (Cook Township) Bethel 1879

IN 1876, Rev. David Earhart, prompted by the feeling that the "Church must go where the people go," began church services in a schoolhouse near Mansville, Cook Township. Shortly thereafter the people, spurred by his enthusiasm, expressed a desire for a Lutheran church in this community. On the ninth of June, 1879, after a full discussion of the subject, the congregation of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church was established.

The church consisted of 34 charter members. Andrew Stahl, Adam Stahl, John, and J. Piper constituted the first church council. As soon as was practicable work on a church building was started. The cornerstone was laid on ground donated by Leaman Stahl on the first day of June, 1880. The church, which is a plain frame building, gothic in style, 34 x 48 feet, seating approximately 200 and costing $1,200, was completed on May 1, 1881.

In 1896 Bethel was attached to the Ligonier parish as a preaching point and services were held on alternate Sundays. In 1907, they became united with the Youngstown church and thereafter was served by the pastor of that parish. Although the roads were at times almost impassable, this community was served very faithfully. From time to time the church has been renovated and many improvements have been added. In 1936 the basement was completed and since then an enclosed outside stairway has been added.

The Sunday School, being one of the most important branches of the church, has been most active throughout the years. It now has a membership of 110 including officers and teachers. In November of 1947, a Women's Missionary Society was organized under the leadership of Mrs. Keturah Adolphsen. It wasn't until 1948, when once again we became members of the Donegal Parish that a Luther League was established under the leadership of Rev. E. Stewart Proper.

Again in 1951 another goal was reached when a junior choir under the leadership of Mrs. John Weaver and Virginia Fiscus was organized. The choir consisted of 24 members.

In 1948, with the coming of E. S. Proper as Pastor of the newly formed Donegal Parish, a Vacation Church School was organized and has been carried on each year with marked success.

In 1949 by action of each congregation, Mt. Zion and Bethel voted to form a new Parish. Bethel had been brought into the Parish as a preaching point only.

Bethel Church, though not great in numbers, is marked by a loyalty that has brought her through many a difficult day down through the years. She looks forward to the future with the confidence born of victories won through faithful service. She is now concerned with the task of building a new church, no small issue for a congregation her size. But she is pressing forward with a firm zeal, the like of which has brought her through other days equally challenging.

The pastorates in their order were as follows: David Earhart, 1878-1882; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1885-1888; Samuel Stouffer,1888-1894; J. H. Kline, 1895; A. H. Bartholmew, 1896-1898; H. L. McMurray, 1898-1906; G. W. Spiggle, 1907; I. M. Wallace, 1909-1910; C. A. Naumann, 1910-1911; F. A. Weickel, 1911-1915; W. E. Bauer, 1916-1923; Henry Voegtley, 1923-1934; J. L. Fischer, 1934-1943; W. F. Adolphsen, 1943-1948; E. Stewart Proper, 1948 —.

Donegal Mt. Zion 1792

ALONG the eastern border of Westmoreland county, between the clearly defined ranges of the Chestnut and Laurel Ridges, runs a beautiful valley, sixty miles long and from two to ten miles wide, in which Lutherans have played a large part since the days of settlement. The lower end is called Indian Creek Valley, and here Good Hope Church was organized in 1788; the upper end is called Ligonier Valley, and there the Brandt Church was built in early days; the central part is known as Donegal Valley, in which Mt. Zion was established about 1792.

The first of the early settlers was Andrew Harman, a Lutheran, who was killed by the Indians at Fort Williams about two miles east of Donegal. It is believed that he came alone to this valley in 1765. Two of his sons were carried into Canada by the Indians, and the older brother lived to return to his home. The greater part of the original settlers were German Lutherans, with only a few Reformed. Their first church was built on the McElwain farm, a short distance north of the highway. In common with the customs of the times it was built of logs, with a gallery and high pulpit, but its furnishings were the simplest. The timber was so well selected that it served the congregation as a house of worship until 1837.

Because of the scarcity of pastors and the isolated position of the church, it is difficult to fix the dates of the first pastorates. The pioneer pastors were John M. Steck and Johannes Stauch. Pastor J. E. W. Lange of Somerset county also conducted services between 1797 and 1811. The first regular pastor was Jonas Mechling, who took charge in 1825. He preached in German every four weeks until 1848. Pastor Mechling was a remarkable catechist, and his strong Bible teaching was the one thing that stood between the Lutheran Church and dissolution, when the revival fever swept the valley in later years.

Adam Byerly donated a lot in Donegal during Mechling's pastorate and a brick church was dedicated in 1838. At this time there was a strong demand for English preaching, but neither Pastor Mechling, nor Pastor Voigt of a nearby church could furnish it. The pastor to whom chief credit belongs for bringing the congregation through this transition stage was Joseph R. Focht, who prepared the first English constitution in 1851, when the name Mt. Zion was assumed. He conducted special services that successfully counteracted the proselyting methods of the revivalists, and built up a church of 150 members.

One of the most successful pastors was George Gaumer, 1856-1868, who led the parish into the Pittsburgh Synod. The parsonage was built during the pastorate of John Welfley. After a renovation, the church was rededicated by Pastor David Earhart November 4, 1877. The present church was erected during the pastorate of J. A. Boord. The cornerstone was laid on the First Sunday after Trinity, 1896, and the building was dedicated by Pastor Boord October 18, 1897. It was built of brick and stone in cruciform shape, 42 x 59, at a cost of $3,500.

During Pastor Dunn's second term a basement was added to the present church, lending greater facility to the church's expanding program. Also the chancel of the church was renovated and new chancel furniture was dedicated.

Under Pastor Brant the old opera-type seats were replaced with new and more comfortable pews, a new floor and ceiling added, and the church in general beautified.

Since Pastor Proper's coming in 1946, a successful Vacation Church School has been held annually. In 1947 Mt. Zion celebrated her 155th Anniversary with ap-

propriate services. In 1948 a new Hammond Electric organ and Deagon Chimes were dedicated, adding greatly to the effectiveness of the worship service. In 1954 new Art Windows were given as memorials and were dedicated, the President of Synod, Dr. G. Lawrence Himmelman, preaching the sermon.

With an expanded Sunday School Mt. Zion is now faced with the necessity of building an educational unit. It is to this task that the congregation is presently committed. Preliminary plans have been considered.

The following pastors have served Mt. Zion: J. M. Steck,, Johannes Stauch (supplies), 1792-1797; J. F. W. Lange, 1797-1811; J. G. Lamprecht, 1813-1815; J. M. Steck, 1815-1819; J. K. Rebenach (supply), 1820-1824; Jonas Mechling, 1825-1848; J. J. Suter, 1848-1849; William Uhl, 1849-1850; J. Focht, 1850-1853; W. H. Wynn, 1854-1856; George Gaumer, 1856-1868; J. S. Fink (supply), 1868; John Welfley, 1869-1875; David Earhart, 1876-1882; Supplies, 1882-1885; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1885-1888; Samuel Stouffer, 1888-1894; J. H. Kline, 1894-1895; J. A. Boord, 1895-1898; D. W. Michael, 1898-1901; J. O. Glenn, 1901-1905; Jesse Dunn, 1905-1908; D. L. Miller, 1909-1913; Jesse Dunn (second term), 1913-1932; Herbert N. Brant, 1932-1946; E. Stewart Proper, 1946 —.

Donora Trinity 1903

WORK among Lutherans in Donora was begun in 1902, and the first congregation was organized on August 11, 1903. While the original membership was fifty, the early progress of the mission was slow.

Pastor H. E. Berkey of Monongahela, who organized the congregation, served it until September 1, 1904, when he surrendered it to the care of Pastor M. M. Allbeck of Monessen. This arrangement continued only for a short time, and the mission was reported vacant in 1905. Hard times had come upon Donora. Many members had sought work elsewhere. And many had returned to their native lands. When Pastor Berkey resigned, only 25 names remained on the church rolls.

The town was canvassed a second time in the summer of 1906 by Student L. F. Gunderman, who reported that he found fifty-one Lutheran families. The Rev. Wilbur C. Mann became supply pastor of Elrama and Donora on December 1, 1906, and in Donora he found a small and discouraged flock.

He persisted in his efforts, however, and the congregation was reorganized with thirty members on April 19, 1908. Pastor Mann resigned on October 1, 1909, and was succeeded by the Rev. L. R. Haus, whose pastorate continued for but a few months.

The next pastor was the Rev. J. Walter Shearer, under whose leadership a corner lot was bought for $2,800. His successor was the Rev. William H. Brown, who led the congregation in building their church. Built of frame, 32 x 55, at a total cost of $8,700, the church's cornerstone was laid on November 30, 1913, and the building was dedicated on April 19, 1914.

Following Pastor Brown's resignation on August 1, 1920, Dr. J. E. Dietterich of Monessen became the supply pastor. On February 1, 1921, he accepted a call, and the parish declared itself self-supporting.

The following pastors have served the Donora church: H. E. Berkey, 1903-1904; M. M. Allbeck, D. D., 1904-1905; W. C. Mann, 1906-1909; L. R. Haus, 1909; J. W Shearer, 1910-1912; W H. Brown, 1913-1920; J. E. Dietterich, D. D., 1920-1933; Rev. Frederick, 1933-1948; Carl E. Maier, 1948-1953; L. Alex Black, 1955 —.

Drake's Mills (Cambridge Springs)
St. Paul's 1854

A Number of German Hanoverians settled in this community at an early date, but were not organized into a church by Pastor J. D. Nunnemacher until 1854. Charles Drake was deeply interested in these Germans, and gave them an acre and a half of ground for a nominal consideration. The cornerstone of a frame church was laid May 25, 1854, which was dedicated by Pastor Nunnemacher in October of the same year. Although repaired in 1874 and 1882, it has served as an acceptable place of worship to the present day. The church was incorporated February 12, 1867, under the name "St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Marvin's Mills, Cambridge Township, Crawford County, Pa." The Constitution was adopted May 30, 1867.

German and English were used in the public services until 1906, when the former was discontinued. From 1854 to 1867 the church was served by Ohio Synod pastors, and the election of a Pittsburgh Synod pastor, November 1, 1867, caused a serious dispute. A large majority favored uniting with the Pittsburgh Synod, but the minority withdrew and organized a separate congregation, which met in the Unitarian Church of Cambridge Springs. Suit was then entered against the majority party for possession of the property, on the ground that the Pittsburgh Synod was not a true Lutheran body. The court decided in favor of the defendants in 1873. The minority congregation then disbanded, the greater part of them returning to St. Paul's. At one time they attempted to return in a body, but this was not permitted. A number of the members of St. Paul's later assisted in the organization of Grace Church of Cambridge Springs, but this effort also failed of success. The year 1949, the church was raised and a basement built. Beginning the second century. May 1, 1954, the congregation severed its ties with the McKean Parish and called a full time resident pastor. Two months later they constructed a two story addition, both enlarging the church and furnishing it. Dedication was held October 10, 1954. The following week was the celebration of the 100th Anniversary.

The pastors of St. Paul's have been: J. D. Nunnemacher, 1845-1857; A. B. Bierdemann, D. D., 1857-1867; Issac Brenneman, 1867-1870; Philip Doerr, 1871-1873; George Gaumer, 1874-1880; Emanuel Cressman, 1881-1891; E. J. Meissner, 1891-1906; R. E. McDaniel, 1907-1909; Peter Riffer, 1911-1913; M. R. Kunkelman, 1915-1920; A. C. P. Hays, 1921-1922; A. W. Ahl, Ph. D., (supply), 1923-1925; J. W. Dean, 1925-1929; Chester Bird, 1930-1935; Roy S. Shultz, 1936-1946; Franklin H. Schott, 1947; R. Russell Reithmiller, 1948-1951; W. Frederick Adolphsen, 1952-1953; C. B. Daniels, 1954-1957; V. T. Benson, 1958 —.

Dravosburg St. John's 1859

THIS congregation was organized in 1859 as The First German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation of Mifflin Township (now Dravosburg), Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Rev. Michael Schweigert, Pittsburgh Synod, was the first Pastor. The congregation constituted a parish with Peace Church, Greenock, Pennsylvania.

Peace and St. John's left the Pittsburgh Synod and joined the American Lutheran Church, Synod of Ohio, and were served by pastors from that Synod until about 1918 when, the congregation broke up and the church doors were closed for the next ten years.

The congregation apparently had a rough time. According to the available records, it disbanded twice: in 1912 and in 1918. It was organized in 1859, reorganized in 1912 and again in 1928.

In 1928, the Rev. George Hegele, Pastor of Peace Church, Greenock, Pennsylvania, visited Dravosburg and became acquianted with a few remaining members of St. John's. Mr. Charles Kohl had the keys to the church building. In the spring of 1928, Pastor Hegele and Mr. Kohl opened the door, with Mrs. Alice Hallet Scepter, present as witness. The town was canvassed and about fifty Lutherans expressed their desire to have church services. Services were conducted by Pastor Hegele until March, 1929, when a new congregation was organized with about fifty confirmed members, seventy-five in Sunday School and about thirty-five members in the Luther League. Pastor Hegele served the congregation without salary. The President of Synod, Dr. E. B. Burgess, took over and formed a parish with Messiah Lutheran Church of Homestead, Pennsylvania in April 1, 1929. Rev. L. W. Rupp was called to serve as Pastor of Messiah, Homestead and St. John's, Dravosburg. The new St. John's started with one member, Mr. Charles Kohl, and nineteen cents in the treasury.

In February, 1932, Rev. Oscar Woods was called to become the full-time Pastor of the newly reorganized congregation. Plans were made for more adequate educational and social faciliities. A basement was excavated under the small frame church building. The work was done free by the members and citizens of the community.

In 1937, a Women's Missionary Society was organized. The work of the church continued under the pastorate of Rev. Woods until November, 1943, when he retired. Report shows: baptized, 308; confirmed, 192; and communing members, 124.

The Rev. John E. Hydinger became pastor of St. John's on March 1, 1945. Under his pastorate the first unit of the new proposed church was built at a cost of approximately $35,000.00. The new model constitution was adopted. Pastor Hydinger resigned in July of 1950. During his pastorate much was accomplished for the church. The property was enlarged and improved. The progress of St. John's was steady and regular. At the end of Rev. Hydinger's Pastorate the membership increased to 193 communing members; 336 confirmed; and 578 baptized.

The Rev. Samuel Boerstler, S. T. D. was called from First Church, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, on February 1, 1951, to become the Pastor of St. John's, Dravosburg. Under Dr. Boerstler's pastorate the church nave was extended over the new basement, making the church more than twice as large. The seating capacity was increased from about 100 to 250. Stained-glass windows were installed; new recessed

ceiling lights were installed; chancel furnishings, a gift from the Calvary Church of McKees Rocks, consisting of a pulpit, altar, lectern, brass communion rails and hymn boards, were placed in the chancel. Now the congregation is worshipping in a beautiful and inspiring house of worship. The Sunday School room has been rearranged. Every class has its own private room, divided by curtains.

The parsonage, located on Melrose Place, near the Atomic Plant, has been sold and a property adjoining the Church was purchased. The object of this transaction was to provide a lot near the Church for a future Parish House, to accommodate the rapidly growing Sunday School.

The congregation has increased in strength and is now able to report, 778 baptized; 548 confirmed; and 347 communing members. As far as it can be ascertained from the incomplete records, the following Pastors have served here: Michael Schweigert, 1859-?; J. P. Leeman, 1879-?; E. Mahlberg, 1883-1887; H. Baehr, 1887-?; S. H. Mollenaur, 1904-?; L. J. Jacobs, 1913-?; George F. Hegele, Th. D., 1928-1929; L. W. Rupp, 1929-1932; Oscar Woods, 1932-1943; Wallace Fisher, 1943-1944; John E. Hydinger, 1945-1950; and Samuel Boerstler, S. T. D., 1951 —.

DuBois St. Paul's 1881

IN 1870, when the Rev. Isaac Brenneman was commissiond as pastor of the North East Mission of the Pittsburgh Synod, his missionary journeys led to DuBois, but he was not able to organize a congregation. The credit for the founding of St. Paul's Church goes to the Rev. J. H. Kline, whose home was in Reynoldsville, and whose parish consisted of Reynoldsville, Emerickville, and Chestnut Grove. He began preaching in DuBois in 1880 and on February 10, 1881 organized a congregation of twenty-five members. From 1881 to 1884 the congregation worshipped in Scalen's Hall on West Long Avenue. On June 17, 1884 the members adopted a constitution, which stated that St. Paul's should be an integral part of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Council Lutheran Church of America. Twelve days later the cornerstone of the present edifice was laid. The building which was erected was a Gothic brick structure, 40 x 80, and had a high spire. The completed building, which cost $7,500, was dedicated on November 23 of the same year. The officiating clergymen at the dedication were the Rev. J. H. Kline, the Rev. J. K. Melhorn, Dr. W. A. Passavant, and the Rev. N. G. Johnson of the Swedish Synod.

Ill health led to the resignation of Pastor Kline on September 11, 1885, but the work of the Lord had prospered under his leadership, and he was able to report a church of 112 communing members. During the early days of the pastorate of his successor, the Rev. I. K. Wismer, St. Paul's withdrew from the Reynoldsville Parish. In 1887 many of the Swedish members, who now worked and lived on the East Side of DuBois, withdrew from St. Paul's in order to form their own church, the Lebanon Lutheran Church. During the following a great conflagration, destroying many homes of the members, swept over DuBois. A change of wind stopped the flames before they reached the church. In 1890 a charter was obtained and signed by the trustees. In 1891 a parsonage was built on the lot adjoining the church. In 1892, during Rev. R. G. Rosenbaum's pastorate, St. Paul's became a self-sustaining congregation.

In 1906, while the Rev. D. P. T. Crickenberger served St. Paul's, a number of the members withdrew and founded Trinity Lutheran Church which became a part

of the Alleghany Synod. During 1907 extensive improvements, costing $10,000, were made to the church property. In the sanctuary these improvements included the replacing of the handmade pews with new ones, the replacing of the ordinary chairs used by the choir with four choir stalls, the redecorating and carpeting of the sanctuary, the installation of a pipe organ. Besides the improvements in the sanctuary a new heating system was installed and a large Sunday school room and several smaller rooms were added to the rear of the church. In 1916 the sanctuary was further improved by replacing the original handmade altar with a beautiful Gothic altar with reredos, on which was an oil painting of "Christ Knocking at the Door". The altar was a gift of the Ladies' Aid and the oil painting a memorial gift from one of the families of the church.

In 1928 a building committee reported to the congregation plans for a basement to be used for Sunday School and parish purposes. For various reasons the basement was not excavated and the rooms were not built until 1931. The cost of these improvements, which included the installation of a gas furnace, the building of a kitchen, a large assembly room known as the Luther Room, and various smaller rooms, was $15,500. At the same time improvements were also made to the rooms in the rear of the church. In 1950 during the pastorate of the Rev. George Hershberger the sanctuary was recarpeted and new lights were installed. During 1955 and 1956 improvements included the electrification and modernizing of the pipe organ, repainting the entire interior of the church building, providing asphalt tile flooring for the entire basement, the replacing of the original pulpit and lectern with a Gothic pulpit and lectern. The seventy-fifth anniversary was celebrated July, 1956.

The pastors who have served St. Paul's are as follows: J. H. Kline, 1881-1885; I. K. Wismer, 1885-1892; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1892-1897; G. L. Rankin, 1897-1900; D. P. T. Crickenberger, 1901-1910; R. D. Roeder, 1910-1923; J. C. Klingensmith, 1924-1947; G. M. Hershberger, 1948-1951; A. E. Simon, 1952 —.

Duquesne First English 1892

REV. H. B. Winton, missionary superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, held the first Lutheran service in Duquesne in the Presbyterian church March 27, 1892. Conlin's Hall was rented a few days later and here "Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church" was organized April 24, 1892.

At a congregational meeting, December 11, 1892, the name was changed from Calvary to First English. The charter was secured August 12, 1893. It was the hope of the missionary superintendent that the congregation would be self-sustaining from the start, but the people were scattered by the great Homestead strike, and missionary aid was given until September 1, 1902.

The first pastor was Rev. Ozias F. Harshman, who took charge of a discouraged congregation November 26, 1892. Two lots were purchased for $2,000 but they could not be held because they could not raise the money. Mrs. Mary Oliver then donated two lots on the corner of Hamilton avenue and Second street February 26, 1894, with the proviso that they should be used for church purposes only. The adjoining lot was then bought for $500. A small frame chapel was built on these lots at a cost of $810. This chapel was dedicated by Pastor Harshman December 2, 1894. In this modest little chapel the congregation grew and prospered.

The second pastor was Rev. William Ira Guss who served from August 18, 1901 to December 31, 1913. The chapel was then set upon a stone foundation,

and repaired within and without at a cost of $1,200. A comfortable parsonage was built on the adjoining lot for $3,400. The congregation steadily increased in numbers until the chapel would no longer hold the people and it became necessary to secure a larger place of worship.

Because of the undesirable location of the chapel it was decided to sell and build elsewhere, but, when they came to get a clear title to the property, the congregation found that they were compelled to pay $1,000 to the Olivers to secure this free title. This was done and the congregation prepared to move. Further steps were taken during the pastorate of Dr. J. Eugene Dietterich, 1914-1918, when two lots on the corner of Kennedy avenue and Fourth street, 50 x 115 were bought for $3,600, and the old church and parsonage disposed of for $9,500.

When Pastor Elmer F. Rice took charge of the congregation, September 1, 1918, he found the task of building a new church immediately before him. The cornerstone was laid June 29, 1919, and the church dedicated by Pastor Rice June 16, 1920. The building was constructed of stone in English Gothic style, and furnished throughout in harmony with strict Lutheran usage. The total cost of the fine plant was $57,600, all but $12,000 of which was provided before the close of the dedication season.

On April 21, 1929, a note-burning service was held which marked the end of indebtedness on the church building. On November 10 of that year the house and lot enjoining the church building was purchased for $8,900 and converted into apartments at an additional cost of $1,000. Dr. Rice resigned on August 5, 1934, effective November 1, 1934 to accept a call to the Manorville Parish of the Pittsburgh Synod.

He was succeeded by Rev. C. W. Baker, Jr., D. D. who became pastor on January 15, 1935. That same year the entire church plant was renovated and much-needed equipment secured. On September 24, 1937, two sons of the congregation, Henry Grant Harvey and Robert William Hahne were ordained to the Gospel Ministry of the Lutheran Church in our sanctuary. At a meeting of the Pittsburgh Synod, held in New Kensington Pa., May 28, 1941, Elwood Hoffman, a son of our congregation, was ordained to the Gospel Ministry. Over $2,000 was expended in 1940 for further renovation of the church plant. During these five years the congregation and Sunday School continued to grow and attendance at worship increased. On Palm Sunday, March 29, 1942 a class of 38 was confirmed.

The Golden Jubilee Celebration was held, April 19-24, 1939 which was marked by interesting services and meetings and a large banquet at which Drs. Guss and Rice were present. This celebration also marked the cancellation of all indebtedness and the burning of the mortgage on the property adjoining the church building.

On May 19, 1946 the congregation voted to purchase the property adjoining the Parish house consisting of two 25 ft. lots and a dwelling for the sum of $5,500. The dwelling was converted into apartments at an additional cost of $1,000 and a three car garage built.

Improvements were made to the property each year and in 1950 new gas furnaces and tower chimes were installed. It soon became evident that the church plant must be increased in size to accomodate the growing congregation. Accordingly, in 1951 a committee, known as "The Expansion Fund Committee" was appointed to devise means and methods to raise the necessary funds to erect a new Educational building. The committee's work was so successful that on Sunday, April 25, 1954, at a specially called congregational meeting, it was decided to start the erection of the building as soon as possible. Council was authorized to appoint a Building

Committee with power to act. A committee of twelve members was duly appointed and immediately went to work. The two houses on our adjoining property were razed to make room for the new structure. Plans were finally approved and a contractor secured at a contract price of $155,470 on the 2nd day of April, 1955. The structure is a two story educational unit containing 22 class rooms, three assembly rooms and other office and choir rooms. It measures 70 x 100 ft.

Ground was broken on Mother's Day, May 8, 1955 and the building started May 9, The cornerstone was laid August 7, 1955. The building was temporarily occupied March 11, 1956 in order to enable the men of the congregation to renovate the lower floor of the original church building. Dedication of the entire plant took place the latter part of the month of June, 1956. The congregation has a total membership of 1530 souls.

The pastorates in consecutive order were as follows: O. F. Harshman, 1892-1901; W. I. Guss, D. D., 1901-1913; J. E. Dietterich, D. D. 1914-1918; Elmer F. Rice, D. D. 1918-1934; C W. Baker, Jr., D. D., 1935-1956; Richard Bartley, 1957 —.

East Liverpool, Ohio St. John's 1863

THE earliest Lutheran families in East Liverpool were served in Evangelical and Reformed groups under the leadership of Rev. Lenakemper until 1858 and a Rev. Henry Reit in 1863. Dr. Wm. A. Passavant, pioneer missionary of the Pittsburgh Synod, persuaded the Rev. John G. Pfuhl, pastor of Steubenville-Bridgewater Mission of the Pittsburgh Synod, to organize a mission church consisting of thirty six members on May 17, 1863.

The lot on the corner of Third and Jackson Streets was purchased for fifty dollars. On this lot a 25 x 35 brick chapel was erected. The cornerstone was laid August 3, 1867. The building was dedicated October 27, 1867. The Lutheran Church building was the seventh church building to be erected in this community.

February 3, 1868 the congregation's original charter was secured. This was replaced by another on April 16, 1886. Pastor Giese prepared a constitution which was adopted and became the law of the congregation until 1938.

From its earliest days the congregation maintained a precarious existence. During the "Hard times" in 1881 the officers of the congregation determined to close the doors of the church; but better counsels prevailed and it was decided to keep the spark of Lutheranism glowing. Pastor Gustave Schultz, then serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church of New Castle, Pennsylvania, was prevailed upon to serve St. John's in connection with the New Castle church.

After another brief period of supply pastors the Rev. John Gottfried Reinartz, D. D., was called as regular pastor immediately after his ordination June 29, 1886. Dr. Reinartz was to become the true spiritual father of St. John's. Shortly after accepting this pastorate he married a pastor's daughter, Sara Julia Eppling. Mrs. Reinartz left her imprint on both the congregation and the community. The youngest son of this marriage, Frederick Eppling, followed his father as pastor from 1930 to 1939. In 1938 he resigned to become the first promotional director of the United Lutheran Church in America and later Secretary of that body.

When Dr. J. G. Reinartz arrived to take charge of his parish he could find but twenty-four of the reported members. The little brick church was soon overflowing with worshippers. Fire almost destroyed the church on the day after Easter, 1887, but repairs were quickly made.

The present parsonage was built in 1867. It was a prefabricated house which was floated down the Ohio River from Rochester, Pa. to be put together on a prepared foundation. Extensive remodeling and improvements in 1930 added greatly to its beauty and convenience.

From 1887 to 1889 the parish included the Wall Rose, Pennsylvania congregation. After the separation of the two churches, mission aid was continued until 1906, when the congregation of 180 members became self-sustaining. Plans were made and bricks were sold for a new church building. July 19, 1896 the cornerstone of the present building was laid in the presence of the congregation of 700 people. The building was dedicated November 29, 1896. The cost of the churchly edifice was $9,800. It was built of brick and trimmed with Berea stone with a cross-crowned steeple 110 feet high.

With the financial aid of Andrew Carnegie a Moller pipe organ was installed. The beautiful windows have been spared in storm, fire, and vandalism. The great deep-toned bell in the tower has summoned faithful worshippers for half a century. It was the gift of Mrs. Sophia Wucherer, grandmother of Miss Ann Werner, the organist of St. John's for many years. Pews, baptismal font, choir vestments, and literally hundreds of little appointments have glowed with spiritual significance.

Three major remodeling projects have been executed through the years. From 1921 to 1923 the Sunday School was renovated, beamed ceilings added downstairs, new floor covering laid, folding doors installed to segregate the primary department. Stucco finish was applied to the exterior brick walls.

In 1940 the interior of the church proper was improved by the addition of a wood ceiling, extra choir box, enlarged sanctuary, chimes added to the rebuilt organ, new carpeting and side wall lights.

On December 31, 1945 disaster again struck. An overheated smoke flue ignited the walls about the furnace room. Prompt work by the firemen saved the building from complete destruction.

In 1952 and 1953 the Sunday School was again remodeled. The old wooden floor was replaced with concrete, a beautiful block tile floor was laid.

St. John's has been blessed in the calling of its pastors. Each of them has appreciated the lofty heritage to be found here. Each has striven to build constructively and sympathetically on the enduring foundations so securely laid by the congregation's spiritual father.

From this congregation four men have gone into the ministry: F. Eppling Reinartz, John Kindsvatter, William H. Keil, and John H. Schneidmiller.

On January 16, 1955 the new parish house was dedicated. Dr. F. Eppling Reinartz preached the dedicatory sermon. The parish house, a one story concrete block fireproof structure 57 x 47 with a finished sub-basement 47 x 20 was erected at a cost of $25,000. It connects with the main building in the basement and consists of three large rooms and a smaller room for Sunday School purposes, a commodious kitchen, furnace room and vestibule. It is so constructed that a second story may be added when needed.

The following pastors have served this church: John G. Pfuhl, 1863-1865; Ewald Giese, 1865-1868; C. J. Steinbach, 1868-1870; John Fritz, 1870-1872; Supplies, 1872-1877; Michael Kuchler, 1877-1878; Supplies, 1878-1882; Gustave Schultz, 1882-1884; Supplies, 1884-1886; John G. Reinartz, D. D., 1886-1930; F. Eppling Reinartz, 1930-1938; John F. Kindsvatter, 1939-1944; Paul E. Obenauf, 1944-1949; Wilbert T. Wilson, 1950 —.

East McKeesport St. John's 1889

THE first effort to plant the Lutheran Church in this community was made by Student W. M. Hackenberg, who held a service in Ormsby Hall, near the corner of Fifth Avenue and Josephine Street in July, 1903. There services led to a desire to organize a Lutheran Church. On August 30, 1903, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized at the home of William Lowry. There were twenty-four charter members.

The first regular pastor was Rev. W. L. Heuser, who served from January 10, 1904, to August 31, 1905. On July 1, 1905, the original lots were purchased at a cost of $1,100.00. In September, 1906, the congregation moved into Fraternity Hall, located on Fifth Avenue, and the Rev. George O. Ritter was the second pastor, serving until June 1, 1909. During these two pastorates the church was connected with Denmark Manor. In March, 1909, the congregation joined with Christ Lutheran Church, Wilmerding, Pa., forming the Wilmerding Charge. The third pastor was the Rev. Frank J. Matter, who served them in connection with Wilmerding. In March, 1910, due to cases of scarlet fever, church services were held in the East McKeesport School and in the United Presbyterian Church. Services were resumed in Fraternity Hall on April 3.

At the meeting held the last Sunday in July, the congregation decided to build a brick church on the lots at the corner of Chicora and Florence Streets. On August 8, 1910, the ground was broken and on October 9, 1910, the cornerstone was laid by the Rev. Matter. The completed building was dedicated by Pastor Jonas K. Robb on June 25, 1911. The congregation remained in the Wilmerding Parish until May 1, 1914, after which it was dependent upon supplies. On May 15, 1922 it was made a separate parish; the Rev. Daniel Ketterman being commissioned as the missionary. The congregation reported 93 confirmed members in 1923. In 1931 the parish again united with Christ's Church, Wilmerding, and the Rev. W. Adolphsen was pastor until July 31, 1943. In December, 1940, new windows, lighting fixtures, steam heating plant and redecorating were provided for the church.

On September 1, 1943, The Rev. Edward M. Miller was called to serve the two parishes. In June, 1944, all mortgages and debts were cleared. On September 29, 1944, a special service was held to commemorate the church's forty years of service to God. Continued growth in membership of both churches of the parish necessitated each church having her own pastor. On February 16, 1947, St. John's voted to petition the Synod for a division of the parish. The congregation immediately looked for and purchased office equipment and a house for a parsonage. On July 14, 1947, final papers were signed for the Chas. Schmidt property, located at 807 Joseph Street — our present parsonage. Pastor Miller was called to serve the parish of St. John's only on August 1, 1948.

St. John's was growing so rapidly that it became necessary to discuss remodeling the church. The Board of American Missions refused to grant any loan to the congregation for remodeling or building at that site, but they did promise aid if the church should be relocated. The church council, after looking for a suitable building location, presented at the congregational meeting, November 25, 1947, the lot located at the corner of the Lincoln Highway and Elizabeth Street. The appraisal of the property had been set at $13,000. Purchase of the property was approved by the congregation, and it was bought February 6, 1948, from Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Whitehead for $11,000.00.

The offer of the Church of the Brethren to purchase the building for

$22,000.00 was accepted at a special congregational meeting on February 8, 1948. The Church of the Brethren gave permission for St. John's to continue their regular services for a period of forty-two months, during which time it was necessary to hold two worship services each Sunday to help relieve the space problem.

On August 20, 1950, ground was broken for the new church edifice. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor Edward M. Miller on September 9, 1951. The pocket in the cornerstone of the old church had been opened on September 7, 1951. The box and contents were found in a state of deterioration. The items found in the pocket were: a Bible, parts of newspaper clippings and several coins. These items were wrapped and resealed in the old cornerstone. The original cornerstone was placed in the new church along with a new cornerstone. The following items were placed in the new cornerstone: a Bible, the church roll, a church directory which includes the names of the officers in the church and in the Pittsburgh Synod, and programs and newspaper clippings covering the services and the members and friends of St. John's.

In order to receive the sale price from the old church, it was necessary to vacate it the first Sunday in December, 1951, and hold the first service in the new, incomplete church. The dedication of the new edifice began with a special service Sunday afternoon, February 3, 1952, and lasted throughout the following week.

Starting October 11, 1952, and lasting through Sunday afternoon, October 18, the congregation of St. John's observed their Fiftieth Anniversary. Since moving into the new church there have been many additions and furnishings added.

Thus far, we have written only of the material things that have happened to St. John's. However, there is much more than this. There is also the spiritual growth. As the congregation has progressed, they have become richer in the deepening of their spiritual life.

The following pastors have served St. John's: S. T. Nicholas (supply), 1903; W. L. Heuser, 1904-1905; G. O. Ritter 1906-1909; F. J. Matter, 1909-1910; J. K. Robb. 1911-1912; F. L. Will, 1913-1914; John F. Snyder, 1917-1919; Daniel Ketterman, 1922-28; Paul J. Trout, 1928-1930; W. Frederick Adolphsen, 1931-1943; Edward M. Miller, 1943 —.

East Pittsburgh — Hebron — 1903

(See Plate 10)

HEBRON Church is on Bessemer Terrace, a residential area of East Pittsburgh that overlooks the Edgar Thomson Works of the United States Steel Corporation and the East Pittsburgh Works of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Extending from Bessemer Terrace and spanning the Turtle Creek Valley is the George Westinghouse Memorial Bridge, which is an important link in United States Highway Route 30. This bridge contains the largest concrete arch in the world.

A survey of this area was made for the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod in 1903 by the Rev. S. T. Nicholas. Served by Missionary Pastor J. W. Poffinberger a congregation was chartered in August, 1903 with 40 members. The Rev. Harvey D. Hoover was called as the first pastor in February 1904, and served until August 1907. The first church building was dedicated in August, 1904, costing $5,600. In two years the congregation numbered 168 members, had a church school enrollment of 445, and became self-supporting. During his 36 year pastorate Dr. Russell became a widely known pastor and beloved citizen of the community. In 1931 the present church building was dedicated.

In 1949 the present parsonage was built adjoining the church on the site of the old parsonage. In February, 1952 the Rev. Earl S. Walker, a native of the neighboring community of Wilmerding, began the present pastorate. For the 50th Anniversary Celebration in 1953 the accumulated industrial and domestic dirt of 22 years was removed from the exterior of the church, restoring its original beauty of stone and brick. The interior was redecorated also and the church building stands as one of the loveliest in the Pittsburgh Synod. On February 7, 1954, Dr. Harvey D. Hoover, first pastor of Hebron, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his coming to Hebron by preaching the same sermon in the pulpit of Hebron Church.

The following ministers have served Hebron: J. W. Poffinberger (supply), 1903; Harvey D. Hoover, 1904-1907; C. M. Teufel, 1907-1909; J. T. Fox, 1910-1912; C. D. Russell, 1912-1948; H. Wahl Pfeifer, 1948-1951; Earl S. Walker, 1952 —.

Elderton (Gastown) Christ 1894

THIS congregation first worshipped in an old stone church that was built under United Presbyterian leadership in 1818. For a number of years this old church was used by Presbyterians, United Presbyterians, Methodists, Reformed, and Lutherans, each denomination moving out as it was able to build a church of its own. In time only the Reformed and Lutherans remained, who regarded the church as their property. When these two bodies effected a friendly separation in 1893, the Lutherans gave the Reformed a quit claim deed. The decision of the Lutherans to build a new church was made November 8, 1893. The church was dedicated by Pastor William Hesse July 22, 1894. It was a neat frame church with altar recess and corner tower, costing $2,037. At this time it was deemed advisable to effect a reorganization of the congregation; this was done July 8, 1894, when the constitution recommended by the General Synod was adopted. The name was changed from St. Thomas to Christ at the same time.

The beginning of the Lutheran organization in this community is obscure. Some think that the Lutherans claimed the right to worship in the old stone church, and exercised it without effecting a formal organization. The first Lutheran service in the old church, as far as can be learned, was held by Rev. G. A. Reichert June 28, 1828. From 1828 to 1837 he held occasional services here, entering the appointment in his private diary as Thomas Kirche. His successor, John H. Bernheim, preached from 1838 to 1841. Jacob Zimmerman served the congregation at irregular intervals from 1842 to 1845, and then regularly every four weeks on Saturdays from August 31, 1845 to April 11, 1847. After a long vacancy, during which the congregation barely survived, Michael Schweigert sought them out, in 1853, and served them regularly for 11 years, when the bitter feelings engendered by the civil war compelled him to turn the congregation over to Jacob H. Wright, a neighboring pastor. "I want to give you one of my churches," Schweigert wrote to Wright. "They have got so rebellious that they put a red handkerchief on a stick, and eight or ten of them march through the church building. The church is an old ramshackle, and it is full of hummels and wasps nests, and the mischievous boys stir up the nests and keep making it too hot for me. They won't do so for you." In this way Pastor Wright was introduced to the congregation which he served for 17 years.

The following pastors served this church: G. A. Reichert, 1828-1837; J. H. Bernheim, 1838-1852; Michael Schweigert, 1853-1864; J. H. Wright, 1864-1881; R. B. Starks, 1881-1885; Samuel Krider, 1886-1889; J. W. Hutchison, 1889-1890; S. V. Dye, 1891-1892; William Hesse, 1893-1897; J. W. Tressler (supply), 1898;

J. A. Flickinger, 1899-1900; J. M. Hankey, 1900-1903; C. L. Wisswaesser, 1904-1905; W. L. Price, 1905-1909; J. L. Nicholas, 1910-1913; Carl F. Miller, 1913-1915; J. M. Stover, 1915-1917; J. F. Booher, 1918-1921; Oscar Woods, 1921-1927; Dan Ketterman, 1927-1929; W. H. Brown, 1929-1937; R. C. Richter, 1937-1941; Paul L. Schmiedel, 1941-1945; Howard W. Amick, 1946-1958.

Elderton (Plum Creek Township)
Mount Union 1869

PRIOR to 1869 Lutherans living in this vicinity were accustomed to attend church at St. Jacob's or St. Michael's. A union Sunday School was organized in 1854, and many of the people of the community were anxious to build a church; but the controversies of the period divided the Lutherans into two parties, neither of which was willing to do its best until the question of synodical relations was settled. Pastor J. H. Wright organized a General Synod congregation in McCullough's schoolhouse August 25, 1869, with 16 members; but that did not settle the question at issue. A lot was purchased from James Rearic by a community committee, and a contract let for the building of a frame church. The cornerstone was laid in June, 1870 by Jonathan Sarver and J. K. Melhorn, but the raising of funds was so difficult that Pastor Wright proposed a meeting of all the Lutherans of the community, at which the vexed question of synodical relations should be settled by majority vote. The meeting was held, but the General Council Lutherans declined to attend. The church was therefore completed and dedicated by the Reformed and the General Synod Lutherans as a union church. It was a substantial building, 40 x 50, costing $3,100 and was dedicated free of debt October 23, 1870. Dr. J. W. Schwartz preached the dedicatory sermon. The first communion service of the Lutheran congregation was held May 21, 1870.

An article of agreement, governing the rights of each congregation was signed by their respective officers February 24, 1871. At the time of organization a constitution in harmony with the General Synod was adopted. A charter was secured on petition of the two congregations September 11, 1871. The Reformed congregation disbanded in 1916. The parish relations of Mount Union have been frequently changed, but it has been a part of Elderton Parish since 1897.

In 1938 a basement was dug under the church and a furnace was installed. In 1948 the edifice was remodeled, a new floor was laid. New altar, lectern, pews, and windows were installed at the same time.

The following pastors have served at Mt. Union: J. H. Wright, 1870-1881; R. B. Starks, 1881-1885; Samuel Krider, 1886-1889; S. V. Dye, 1889-1893; William Hesse, 1893-1895; C. M. Wachter, 1895-1898; J. E. F. Hassinger, 1899-1902; J. M. Hankey, 1902-1903; C. L. Wisswaesser, 1904-1905; W. L. Price, 1905-1909; J. L. Nicholas, 1910-1913; Carl F. Miller, 1913-1915; J. M. Stover, 1915-1917; J. F. Bocher, 1918-1921; Oscar Woods, 1921-1927; Dan Ketterman, 1927-1929; W. H. Brown, 1929-1937; R. C. Richter, 1937-1941; Paul L. Schmiedel, 1941-1945; Howard W. Amick, 1946-1958.

Elderton (South Bend) St. Jacob's 1823

JACOB FRANTZ of Westmoreland County came to this vicinity in 1817, when he purchased the grist mill belonging to Charles Campbell. Pastor John M. Steck of Greensburg followed his parishioner and held services in the mill during the same year. In 1822 Jacob Frantz donated two acres of ground to the Reformed and Lutherans for church and burial purposes, to which was later added one-half acre by purchase from the Hart heirs. Before the Frantz land was legally conveyed, however, the donor died; but John Frantz carried out the wishes of his father and executed the deed. The first church erected on this ground was built of logs in the spring of 1823. It was a plain building without ornamentation of any description. Originally it did not even have chimneys, since no services were held in the winter. The pews were made of heavy slabs. The first Lutheran pastor to minister in this old log church was G. A. Reichert who preached two sermons on April 29, 1823. It was probably on this same day that the congregation was organized.

The relations between the Lutherans and Reformed in these early days was very cordial. The rights of each party were fully respected by the other, and they lived and labored as brethren. Both denominations conducted services exclusively in German for a number of years. The first English sermon was preached by John H. Bernheim in 1838. When Jacob Zimmerman took charge of the church in 1841, it was his custom to preach a German and an English sermon on the same day. After 1860 practically all German was eliminated. The services of Pastor Reichert continued from April 29, 1823 to March 1834, during which he preached regularly every four weeks in German, and administered the sacrament of the altar once a year.

There was evidently some trouble in the church in 1834 when Pastor Reichert resigned in as much as he continued to serve all his other churches for three more years. So far as we can learn the church was vacant from 1834 to 1838, when John H. Bernheim became pastor. Jacob Zimmerman succeeded pastor Bernheim at a recorded salary of $90 per year.

When Pastor Zimmerman began his work, the congregation was still worshipping in the old log church. Larger quarters then became imperative; and a new frame church, often called the "White Church," was dedicated November 23, 1842. Pastors Nicholas P. Hacke and William Weinel of the Reformed, Michael J. Steck, John H. Bernheim and Jacob Zimmerman of the Lutheran Church were present at the dedication. No names of communicants were entered in the old "Kirchen Buch" of St. Jacob's until June 11, 1843, when Pastor Zimmerman administered the sacrament to 96 persons, 36 of whom were confirmed on the previous day. Reformed and Lutherans worshipped together in the frame church of 1842 for a period of 38 years. The present frame church was built by Lutherans alone, and was dedicated by Pastor Jacob H. Wright January 14, 1881. It was built upon a quarter-acre lot donated by Frantz George at a cost of $2,365. In 1891 the Reformed built a new church in South Bend; and the last united act of the two congregations was to dispose of the old church building at public sale.

The synodical relations of this venerable church have been varied, the people being governed by the wishes of their pastor. From 1823 to 1825 St. Jacobs's was connected with the Ministerium; from 1825 to 1841 it was a part of the West Pennsylvania Synod; from 1841 to 1860 it was in the Ohio Synod; since 1860 it has been in the Pittsburgh Synod. On April 7, 1860 the constitution recommended by the Pittsburgh Synod was adopted. In 1867 the General Council controversy made quite a stir in the community; but the influence of Jacob H. Wright was

dominant, and the congregation cast its lot with the General Synod. During the short pastorate of Carl F. Miller, 1913-1915, a parsonage was secured in Elderton.

The following pastors served this church: G. A. Reichert, 1823-1834; Vacant, 1834-1838; John H. Bernheim, 1838-1841; Jacob Zimmerman, 1841-1859; David McKee, 1860-1866; J. H. Wright, 1866-1887; J. W. Hutchinson, 1887-1889; T. J. Frederick, 1890-1896; C. M. Wachter, 1896-1898; J. A. Flickinger, 1899-1900; Jacob M. Hankey, 1900-1903; C. L. Wisswaesser, 1904-1905; W. L. Price, 1905-1909; J. L. Nicholas, 1910-1913; C. F. Miller, 1913-1915; J. M. Stover, 1915-1917; J. F. Booher, 1918-1921; Oscar Woods, 1921-1927; Dan Ketterman, 1927-1929; W. H. Brown, 1929-1937; R. C. Richter, 1937-1941; Paul L. Schmiedel, 1941-1945; Howard W. Amick, 1946-1958.

Ellwood City — St. Paul's — 1902

INASMUCH as this is the oldest Siebenburger Saxon Church in America, a few words about the national history of these people seem in order. They owe their beginning as a people to a Hungarian king who welcomed a group of them to the southeast border of his dominion, 1131-1162, for the ostensible purpose of teaching his own people the art of agriculture. The leaders of this first group of emigrants to Hungary were Herman Von Nurenberg and Michael Staedter.

In their new home they were subject to many attacks from marauders, so that they built seven great castles for defense. It has been generally taught that it was from these seven castles they derived their cherished name of Siebenburgers. This explanation of the origin of the name, however, has been questioned.

Their hard experience on this eastern border of Hungary had the effect of deepening their spiritual life, so that they accepted the doctrines of the Reformation at a very early date, and clung to them when other parts of Hungary had been swept back into the Roman Church by the counter reformation. Their great Reformer was Johannes Honterus. Since the period of the Reformation they have suffered much at the hands of both the Greek and Roman Churches, but they held fast to their faith in spite of all hardships. Inasmuch as there was always a close bond between faith and language in all these experiences, they have developed a natural love for the German language that is not easily broken.

In 1885 three Siebenburger Saxons decided to leave their homeland Siebenburgen and to seek their fortune in America. A number of others followed, settling in many parts of the country. This was only the beginning. Many followed until about 30,000 had reached this country, everyone of whom was a baptized Lutheran. Some of the earliest immigrants came to Ellwood City. Leaders of the Ellwood City Siebenburgers soon realized that the organization of a Lutheran Church would do more to preserve their sacred customs and traditions than a secular union; therefore, a congregation was established in 1902. Services were conducted in the Church building known as the Bethelem Lutheran Church which had been moved to Ellwood City in 1894. Their First Pastor was Rev. Michael Orendt. Only the German language was used in church and church school.

In 1905 Pastor Lentz reorganized the congregation. Unsuccessful efforts were made to organize a Sunday school at first, but finally one was established. German catechetical instruction was given every Saturday morning for two hours, September to June, and then three days a week from June 1 to July 15. In 1917 the church building was remodeled and beautified in harmony with Saxon ideals. The chancel

was furnished with gifts of individual members. Rev. Zultner followed Rev. Beisecker from 1924 to 1926. It was at that particular time that the congregation was made a separate parish and during that time that it joined the Pittsburgh Synod.

In the summer of 1924 the Ladies Aid was organized and sometime later a Luther League, which was very active. In 1932 the congregation celebrated its 30th Anniversary.

In 1935 Rev. Beisecker returned to the congregation and under his leadership the church was raised to provide a basement for the use of the Sunday School and other organizations; also new windows, pews and carpet were purchased for the church auditorium. On November 5, 1939, the church was rededicated free of any debt.

In 1939 a young women's missionary society was organized with 19 charter members and it took the name of Beisecker Missionary Class in 1945, following the death of Pastor Beisecker who organized it to honor his memory.

In 1943 the Sunday school changed from German to the English language and has increased in membership ever since. The Brotherhood of Men (which has been active ever since) was organized June 1, 1946 during the Pastorate of Rev. Hoeniger.

In 1947 a parsonage was purchased, a garage built, a new organ installed. Rev. Nagelbach also started a church library. Rev. Nagelbach served until 1951. Then came the present Pastor Rev. Richard Korber. In the Fall of 1951 a Junior Choir was founded which sings in both languages, English and German.

In 1952 we celebrated the 50th Jubilee with Dr. G. L. Himmelman, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, delivering the sermon. New Junior Choir robes were given by members of the congregation and used for the first time during the Jubilee Celebration. During that time many lovely memorial gifts such as new lights, cross, candle holders vases, and chimes were received.

During 1953 the Ladies Aid gave a gas furnace for the church, the men changed and paneled the basement and remodeled the kitchen. In 1954 a parking lot complete with lights was built and a cement walk was laid. Also during that year the congregation purchased a gas furnace for the parsonage. This was followed in 1955 by the purchase of audio visual equipment. Today the confirmed membership is 241 with 140 children on the roll. Two languages are still used every Sunday.

Ministers who have served St. Paul's are: Michael Orendt, 1902-1903; Henry Voegele, 1903-1904; A. P. Lentz, 1904-1914; Ludwig Beisecker, 1914-1924; John Zultner, 1924-1926; J. H. Graf, 1926-1931; E. F. Arens, 1931-1934; John Deutschlaender and John H. Deutschlaender, 1934-1934; E. A. Giesel, 1935-1937; Ludwig Beisecker, 1937-1945; Thomas Hoeniger, 1945-1947; Andreas Nagelbach, 1947-1951; Richard Korber, 1951 —.

Ellwood City Trinity 1894

AFTER a preliminary canvass the first English Lutheran Service in Ellwood City was held by Rev. Robert R. Durst February 4, 1894. For the next ten months Pastor Durst conducted services regularly every two weeks. The congregation was organized, May 28, 1894. The services of Pastor Durst were given gratuitously, the rent and other incidental expenses being met from the current offering.

In November, 1894 Rev. Peter Riffer accepted a call and served until 1901. The congregation worshipped for a number of years in the building now known as the German Lutheran Church. At a congregational meeting March 28, 1897 a committee reported that the lot on the corner of Spring avenue and Fifth street could be bought for $500. Some time later the adjoining lot was also secured. The church was incorporated May 3, 1897. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor Riffer October 28, 1900, but lack of funds interfered with the completion of the building, so that it was not dedicated until July 2, 1902, during the pastorate of A. P. Lentz. The cost of the frame structure was $2,600.

Pastor Lentz spent twelve years in this parish bringing the mission to self-support in 1910, and building up a strong congregation of 158 members. During his pastorate a frame parsonage was erected on the lot adjoining the church at a cost of $2,600. He also accepted a call from the independent Siebenburger Church of Ellwood City and served them every alternate Sunday afternoon.

Because of the need for more room an addition was built to the east side of the church, 16 x 32, at a cost of $1,600. A service of rededication was conducted by Pastor Beisecker July 16, 1916. During the course of the years the value of the church property increased so rapidly that it was decided to select another site and build a new church. On April 1, 1920 the Lanigan property, corner of Crescent avenue and Sixth street was bought for $15,000, and the trustees were authorized to place both properties on the market. These were sold in 1925; and a new brick church and parsonage were erected on the corner of Second and Spring streets at a cost of $80,000.

On July 15, 1926 the Rev. J. L. Baker was called as pastor. During his pastorate the new church building was completed and dedicated. Dedication services were held on Sunday, September 12, 1926 with the Rev. D. Ellis B. Burgess, President of the Synod, as the special speaker. Rev. Baker's pastorate ended on June 1, 1931. On February 16, 1936 the congregation extended a call to the Rev. Fred H. Daubenspeck. During his seventeen year pastorate the church grew in strength and number. The mortgage on the church building was burned and an additional building next to the parsonage was bought for $10,500. Pastor Daubenspeck served until April 15, 1952.

On July 1, 1952 the congregation unanimously called the Rev. Ivan G. Mattern. He took office on August 1, and was installed on August 6th. Prior to the coming of Pastor Mattern the parsonage was completely renovated at a cost of $4,500. In October of 1952 a new choir was organized and fully robed. Another building was purchased in October for $13,000. "A Youth Church" was organized with a charter membership of sixty eight and the Young Adult Bible Class was organized.

The mortgage on the first property purchased was burned in March, 1953. The one new property was completely renovated and equipped for $14,700 to be used as a Parish House.

Rededication Service at the end of the Package Program of Improvement with the burning of the mortgage on the second property bought was held in February, 1955. New Ecclesiastical Lectern Lamps and other new lighting in the church were dedicated in April, 1956.

The following ministers have served this parish: R. R. Durst, 1884; Peter Riffer, 1894-1901; A. P. Lentz, 1902-1914; Ludwig Beisecker, 1914-1926; J. L. Baker, 1926-1931; C. F. Christensen, 1931-1935; Fred H. Daubenspeck, 1936-1952; Ivan G. Mattern, 1952-1957; H. Edmund Pfeifer, 1958 —.

Emsworth — St. James' — 1909

THIS congregation was organized by the pastors of the Joint Synod of Ohio. However, at the time of the adoption of a constitution, the question of secret orders raised a sharp point of difference, and members of the congregation began to negotiate with officials of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod for a permanent pastor.

The congregation was admitted to the synod in 1909 and connected with Mt. Olivet of Spring Hill as a mission parish. Rev. Wilbur C. Mann took charge of the two congregations October 1, 1909, surrendering the Mt. Olivet charge in 1921. The cornerstone of their church was laid in March 13, 1910, and the building was dedicated by Pastor Mann June 5, 1910.

It was a modest structure erected at a cost of $4,000, but it has been a real church home to increasing numbers of people. At the time of the dedication the membership was 39. Self-support was assumed in 1919. A new site was secured in 1923 at a cost of $3,600. This, however, was sold and the structure was put up on the original site.

A rapidly growing membership made the original church building no longer adequate, and early in the 1920's plans were made for the erection of a new church. While the old structure was used, it was altered to such extent that the result was virtually a new sanctuary. Work began in 1927, and the new edifice was completed and dedicated early in 1928, the total cost approximating $28,000.

In 1935 the long pastorate of the Rev. Wilbur C. Mann terminated with his resignation, and the Rev. James N. Frank succeeded him. Pastor Frank served the congregation for six years, and in turn was succeeded by the Rev. John P. Stumpf in 1941. The membership of the congregation increased sharply during this period. Stained glass windows were installed in the church and other physical improvements were accomplishd.

In 1945 a parsonage was purchased by the congregation, thus for the first time housing was provided for the pastor and his family.

In June, 1952, the present pastor, the Rev. James B. Huntley, was installed. At the same time the congregation purchased a beautiful, modern, new parsonage on Hiland Avenue, the Huntley's being the first to occupy the new dwelling. Rapidly increasing membership in the Sunday Church School now rendered the present educational facilities of the parish obsolescent. In 1953 plans were formulated for the erection of a new educational unit adjoining the original church building. Ground was broken in January, 1954, and the new unit was completed and dedicated in September of that year. Total cost including furnishings slightly exceeded $35,000. Since completion of the new unit remodeling of the original building is now under way. When such renovations are complete St. James' should have adequate physical

facilities for many years to come. Plans are currently being made for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the birth of the congregation in 1959.

The following ministers have served St. James': Wilbur C. Mann, 1909-1935; James N. Frank, 1935-1941; John P. Stumpf, 1941-1944; Edward L. Wagner, 1944-1945; Bernard F. Wise, 1945-1952; James B. Huntley, 1952-1957; Lloyd K. Haag, 1957 —.

Erie (Lawrence Park) Christ 1913

IN 1911 the General Electric Company established a large plant in Lawrence Park. A number of homes were erected for the employees. As early as 1912 some of these homes were occupied by Lutherans. Pastor E. L. T. Engers of Grace, Erie helped to organize a Sunday School at 1013 Silliman Avenue on October 12, 1912. This school began to grow so that the place of meeting was changed to the Keim flat and then to the school building. Christ was organized with eight members at the home of George DeBell, October 27, 1913. On November 6, 1913 the constitution was signed at the home of Robert Stauffer.

The Erie Church Extension Society took the new congregation under its care and built a brick church on Silliman avenue for $7,000. The cornerstone was laid on November 16, 1913; the building was dedicated by Pastor E. L. T. Engers, acting pastor, May 10, 1914. C. F. Adams of St. Stephen's, Peter Leemhuis of Luther Memorial, and Miss Kate Hirt of Grace were valuable helpers of the mission in its early days.

The first regular pastor of the church was Rev. James W. Ramsey. In 1919 a loan of $2,000 was received from the Board of Home Missions and Church Extensions in order to finance the purchase of two additional lots. The congregations obligation to the Erie Church Extension Society was adjusted during the next year, and the debt has been gradually paid. The work of this congregation is dependent to a large degree upon the business of the General Electric Company.

Pastor Henry F. Obenauf served the congregation from May 1, 1928 to November, 1942. Most of these years were the lean years of the depression, the most critical, not only in the history of the congregation, but of the nation. In spite of these economic hardships, however, Pastor Obenauf served the congregation so well that it became self-supporting.

Pastor J. Frederick Bermon succeeded Pastor Obenauf in April, 1943. Among the significant events of recent times was the ordination of Walter W. Mattson in June, 1952. Pastor Mattson was the first pastor to come from Christ. After a year of study in Oriental languages at Yale, Pastor Mattson was commissioned a foreign missionary, and assigned to Japan.

In May, 1956 the congregation completed a successful campaign for $40,000 which is to be used to enlarge the present building.

The pastors who have served Christ are: E. L. T. Engers, 1913-1914; J. W. Ramsey, 1914-1915; G. E. Swoyer, 1917-1918; C. E. Dennig. 1918-1920; J. E. Kelly, 1920-1923; Samuel Boerstler, 1924-1928; Henry F. Obenauf, 1928-1924; J. Frederick Bermon, 1943 —.

Erie (Fairfield) Faith 1949

THE nucleus of Faith Church existed in its pre-organizational days as a branch Sunday School of Christ Lutheran Church, Lawrence Park. The group met at the Fairfield Hose Company, Harborcreek Township. Preliminary survey work was completed by Seminarian Paul Himmelman.

On October 2, 1949 the congregation was formally organized. A two-church parish arrangement was made with Grace Church, Erie. The Rev. Kenneth May became the first Pastor.

Meanwhile, negotiations were made for the purchase of land on Fair Avenue. Later, a construction building was moved to the lot and used as a chapel. Plans were being hatched for the construction of the first unit.

After serving the two churches four years Pastor May resigned on September 1, 1953. The Rev. Robert Richter was called in January, 1954. At the end of one year he relinquished the pastorate of Faith Church to serve Grace Church only.

Arrangements with the Synodical Board of Missions were completed and Seminarian Charles McAdoo was called as the first full-time minister of Faith Church. Pastor McAdoo began his duties in June, 1955.

Pastors who have served this mission church are: Kenneth May, 1949-1953; Robert Richter, 1954-1955; Charles D. McAdoo, 1955 —.

Erie Good Shepherd 1952

THE Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Erie, Pennsylvania, is a product of the missionary endeavors of our Synod. According to the record of deeds on the church property, the United Lutheran Church's Board of American Missions purchased the property located at 38th and Ash Streets, over 25 years ago. At that time, this section of Erie was farm country. It has only been since 1950 that houses have been built here. The building, while past its peak, is still going on.

In June of 1951, the Rev. Paul Himmelman was assigned by the Mission Board to develop a church in the southeast section of Erie. After surveys were completed, it was realized that a number of Lutherans and other Protestants were living in the area without a church home. Since the area was new, there was no place to hold church services and a member of the steering committee, Mr. Richard Tansey, offered the use of his home for the first church service. Since the congregation began to grow rapidly, crowding the facilities at Tansey's and other homes used for Church School, it was necessary to enter a building program much sooner than had been anticipated. Thus, while the Service of Organization was held on February 17, 1952 at St. John's Church, Erie, the first of four units was in the process of construction. The church was organized with 93 adults and 46 children.

In June of 1952, the congregation entered its chapel which, when the church sanctuary is built, will become a Children's Chapel. It was not long after entering the chapel, that two services, 9:30 and 11:00, were conducted every Sunday throughout the year, along with two sessions of the Church School meeting simultaneously with the Services. As the Church School grew, the need for the second unit, an Educational Building, became apparent. In March of 1954 the unit was dedicated, and now, three years later, is again inadequate. Both the Primary

and Beginner Departments of the School are overcrowded at both sessions of the school. There are now 215 children and 342 adult members of the church.

When Pastor Himmelman came as Mission Developer a parsonage was purchased that proved to be inadequate before too long. Thus in 1955, soon after the coming of Rev. Robert H. Armstrong, ground was broken for a parsonage on the church property on 37th Street. The parsonage was dedicated in July of 1956. The cost was $18,000. This home will serve the needs of the congregation and pastor for many years.

Still to be constructed by the church is the sanctuary seating over 300 people and a Recreational Unit which will provide all necessary facilities for the congregation and community. In spite of the crowded conditions in the present buildings, no more construction will take place until the debt of $53,000 is liquidated. This is being done at a more rapid rate every year as the congregation grows and stewardship is increased among the members.

In 1957, the 11:00 o'clock service of the church was broadcast over Radio Station WERC in Erie. This is the only Lutheran service being aired at this time.

The Church of the Good Shepherd has had only two pastors: Paul L. Himmelmann, 1952-1955; Robert H. Armstrong, 1955 —.

Erie Grace 1905

GRACE Lutheran Church is the outgrowth of a mission school, established by the members of Luther Memorial Church in the northeast section of Erie on November 19, 1893. The first superintendent of the School was Peter Leemhuis and the first meeting place was in the Schermerhorn home at 809 East Seventh Street.

Charles F. Hirt, father of the Hon. Judge William E. Hirt, bought a lot at the corner of East 10th and Wayne Streets and presented it to Luther Memorial for the use of the new mission. A chapel building was purchased from the Episcopal Diocese of Erie and was moved on to this location.The school moved into its new quarters on June 17, 1894. The Rev. I. O. Baker, pastor of Luther Memorial and Dr. H. W. Roth, former president of Thiel College, conducted the formal opening services on the above date. This Sunday School was maintained as a parish of Luther Memorial for over 10 years. During this time sessions were held in the afternoons, and summer vespers were conducted in 1895 and 1896 by seminarians C. D. Blethen and Roy G. Catlin. In 1904 a number of families became interested in establishing a congregation. The Rev. Samuel S. Adams began at this time to hold regular services each Sunday morning, and he faithfully laid the ground work for the beginning of a congregation through these services which were held regularly during the winter of 1904 and 1905.

In the spring of 1905 Luther Memorial extended a call to Franklin E. Strobel, a senior at Philadelphia Seminary, to become pastor of this new mission upon his graduation and ordination. This call was accepted and on June 25, 1905, the Rev. F. E. Strobel became the first regular pastor of Grace Church. On October 1, 1905 the first communion services was held. At this service 50 charter members were received.

The constitution was adopted October 4, 1905, and the first officers were installed. The charter of the congregation was obtained November 20, 1905, and the property was turned over to the new corporation, debt free, by Luther Memorial.

Pastor Strobel dedicated the chapel on June 17, 1906 and continued a successful pastorate among the members until 1910.

For the next seven years Grace was served by four different pastors. These brief pastorates were not conducive to the growth of the young congregation. It was, therefore, a small and discouraged group who, in 1918, called Rev. George H. Schnur to be their pastor.

Pastor Schnur rallied the support of the small congregation and began to interest new members in the work of the church. A residence was purchased at 709 East 11th Street and remodeled at a cost of $5,500. This amount was paid in full during the next three years. When the question of a new church building arose, it was decided to enlarge the present chapel. This was to be done by observing the unit plan in order to prevent any heavy indebtedness. In 1925 the first unit was completed which consisted of moving the building on a new basement farther back on the lot. This was done at a cost of $5,700 and was paid for within a year after completion. In 1928 the second unit, which consisted of a new front to the building and the installation of a beautiful memorial window to the memory of Peter Leemhuis, was completed at a cost of $9,300. In 1938 Dr. Schnur resigned Grace Church in order to retire from the active ministry.

In June, 1938, the Rev. John E. Bermon was called as pastor. It was under his leadership that a two manual Moller pipe organ was purchased. For over nine years Pastor Bermon served the people of Grace most faithfully. During this time many new members were added to the roll of the congregation and the communing membership increased to the point where the members of Grace began to feel a sense of stability. Pastor Bermon resigned November 14, 1947.

On February 8, 1948 Kenneth May, a senior at Philadelphia Seminary, was called subject to his ordination. Pastor May began his work in Erie June 9, 1948. During his pastorate the interior of the church was redecorated and new windows were placed in the nave. A modern parsonage was built valued at $16,500 on East Second Street, in the Lakeside area of Erie. The debt on this project was paid in less than five years. On September 1, 1953 Pastor May resigned to accept a call to Christ Church, Millvale.

On January 1, 1954 Pastor Robert Richter began work as pastor. At the congregational meeting held January 20, 1954, the congregation decided to take steps to complete the third unit of their building project. This consisted of brick facing the exterior of the building and adding a church study and modern stairwell to the rear of the building. This work was completed December, 1954 at a cost of $20,000.

During the past 50 years over 1100 members have had their names on the church roll. Nearly 800 children have been baptized. Confirmands have numbered 542. Through the years Grace has been known as a church that is benevolently minded. Year after year the apportionment of our benevolent giving has been paid in full, proving once again that God's blessing always abound where hearts give thought to the needs of others.

The following pastors have served Grace: Samuel S. Adams, 1904-1905; Franklin E. Strobel, 1905-1910; John H. Wannemacher, 1910-1911; E. L. T. Engers, 1911-1916; J. A. L. Mensch, 1916-1917; J. A. Beighey, 1917-1917 (supply); George H. Schnur, D. D., 1918-1938; John E. Bermon, 1938-1947; Kenneth May, 1948-1953; Robert Richter, 1954-1957; J. Bucher, 1957 —.

Erie Holy Trinity 1922

HOLY TRINITY, which began as an Italian mission in Erie, was encouraged in its beginnings by the Erie Extension Society. Recognizing the needs of the large Italian element in Erie, the Immigrants' Mission Board of the United Lutheran Church agreed to furnish and sustain the missionaries for this work, if the Lutherans of Erie would provide the building.

A local committee of 17 men financed the building project. A frame house at 639 West 17th Street was purchased for $6,000 and remodeled for use at the cost of an additional $6,000. The first floor was converted into a chapel; the basement was arranged for social work; the second floor was fitted up for welfare and educational work. The educational and welfare department was opened October 19, 1921, when more than 1,000 Italians heard an address by Rev. Giuseppe Buggeli of Detroit, Michigan, a pioneer of Italian evangelization in America. The Municipal Italian band canvassed the Italian district playing in honor of the new enterprise.

Sunday afternoon, October 16, 1921, the chapel was dedicated by Dr. Ellis B. Burgess, then president of the synod. Other speakers on this occasion were Rev. Rehrig, Ph. D., representing the Immigrants' Mission Board, Rev. J. Elmer Bittle, D. D., Missionary Superintendent of the Synod, Rev. G. A. Benze, D. D., representing the Erie Lutheran churches, and Rev. Fortunato Scarpitti who spoke in Italian. All the Lutheran ministers of Erie and the vicinity took part in the ceremony. It is worth noting that this was the first Italian church building in America. There are other church buildings in which Italians worship, but these are not for the exclusive use of Italians.

The religious work was started immediately after the dedication, and after six months of work, on Sunday, June 4th, 1922, Rev. Scarpitti organized the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church with twenty members. We confirmed twelve of them; others were taken in by confession of faith and one by letter. The congregation subscribed to the constitution of the Pittsburgh Synod and at its convention, the mission was received into its membership. A charter was granted by the Erie Courts in 1923. The services were held both in Italian and English. The Sunday School was always conducted entirely in English. At present all services are held in English.

The Immigrants' Mission Board of the United Lutheran Church, supported Rev. F. Scarpitti, and at the beginning of the work, paid the maintenances expenses of the mission. Later the mission and its friends took care of the maintenance.

Holy Trinity is a member of the Pittsburgh Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America. All missions in its territory are under the supervision of the Synodical Board of American Missions. The Pittsburgh Synod gave the first $5,000 towards the Youth project. The president of Synod at that time was the Rev. Henry H. Bagger and the Missionary Superintendent was the Rev. P. H. R. Mullen, D. D. President H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., and Superintendent Donald L. Houser, D. D., are responsible for the payment by the Pittsburgh Synod of the debt on the old building, and also for the transferring of the title of property to the Holy Trinity congregation which is now the sole owner of all this valuable building and grounds that surround it. The total estimated cost with the furnishings amounts to $135,000.

In 1941 a Youth Center and Church Building Committee was organized to help the Rev. Scarpitti to solicit funds for this project. All members of this organization have strived valiantly with the pastor to make this dream a reality. To the members of this committee we shall ever be indebted for giving their time and money.

On May 5, 1949 the officers of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church signed the contract for the building of the Church and Youth Center with the Hamann Construction Company of Cleveland, Ohio. The cornerstone laying service was held on Sunday afternoon, August 7, 1950.

Rev. Fortunato Scarpitti, who worked the Erie field since 1920 was the first pastor of Holy Trinity and has been serving the congregation since 1921.

Erie (Harborcreek) Hope 1951

IN the Spring of 1950 a survey was conducted by several members of Christ Lutheran Church, Lawrence Park, the Rev. J. Frederick Bermon, D. D., pastor, in an area east and north of Harbor Creek. As a result of this survey the need for a church in this area was established.

At the first meeting of the Organization Committee a lot 125′ x 125′ was given by Mr. and Mrs. John Berry on the corner of Dutton and Highmeyer Roads for the erection of a church building. The committee was composed of Pastor Bermon and Mr. Robert J. Moreland of Christ Church and Mr. and Mrs. John Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Willard A. Greener, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schultz and Mrs. Sherrod of the newly formed congregation.

Shortly afterwards a foundation was laid and a homosote walled former construction shanty 20 x 30 feet was purchased from Faith Church, Fairfield and moved to this site. The building was extended twenty feet resulting in the present 20 x 50 foot chapel. Vergil Fackler of Messiah Church, Wesleyville, made the chancel furniture at cost; St. John's Church, Erie, offered twenty four pews; and so with forty three people present Dr. Bermon conducted the first service January 7, 1951.

Dedication took place March 11; incorporation July 26, 1951. During the summer Dr. Bermon was assisted in this work by Walter Mattson, member of Christ Church, at the time ready to begin his senior year at North Western Theological Seminary. When the pastorate of Dr. Bermon and Seminarian Mattson terminated September, 1951, the congregation had fifty three members, its lot, its building, and parking lot.

Pastor Paul E. Fauth served this congregation from September, 1951 until October 15, 1952 in addition to St. Peter's Church, North East. Fourteen members were added during this year.

Hope is now part of the Harborcreek pastoral charge with Redeemer Church, Brookside. The present pastor, the Rev. William H. Snyder became the first pastor of this charge October 15, 1952. Siding, a basement entrance and painting of the interior have recently been completed. The century old pews have had their faces lifted. Continued improvements are in prospect, especially in the basement. The church lot in 1956 was enlarged by the purchase of land on two sides of the corner lot to the extent that the present grounds comprise 2.8 acres.

Hope participated in a trial run of the Lutheran Evangelism Mission in 1954, and very successfully in a trial run of the Sector Project in 1955. Membership now stands at 77 with 59 "communing". Bailey O. Herrington succeeded Pastor Snyder in 1958.

Erie (Harborcreek) Redeemer 1952

BROOKSIDE, Pennsylvania, a thriving community of seven-hundred homes and families, was lacking a church for its spiritual needs. To Pastor J. Frederick Bermon of Christ Lutheran Church, in nearby Lawrence Park, this was a challenge to be met and overcome.

In extending the frontier of faith, a theological student and now U.C.L.A. missionary in Japan, the Rev. Walter Mattson, was aided by four consecrated laymen and women in canvassing Brookside during the late summer months of 1951, the result of the canvass indicated a definite interest for a church.

The Brookside Fire Department offered the use of its hall to the new congregation, and on the second Sunday in November, the Rev. Bermon conducted the first services with fifty-six members attending the Brookside Lutheran Chapel as it was then known. The Sacrament of Baptism was first administered by the Rev. Bermon in December.

In January, 1952, Dr. Houser, Mission Superintendent for the Pittsburgh Synod, had viewed the lot on the corner of Saltsman Road and Irene Drive, and approved its location. In March, the congregation had a new name, "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer" and its own church was now more than a dream, the frontier of faith was extending. Membership had grown to ninety and pledges were made by the faithful to help finance the building of a church.

On April 20, an organizing service was held in Messiah Lutheran Church. The service was conducted by Dr. Houser, assisted by Pastors Koehler, Schweikert, and Bermon. There was still a lot of hard work ahead, with planning the church reviewing designs and details with Architect Carl Schnur.

On May 28, "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer" was formally accepted as a member of the Pittsburgh Synod. On June 12, Rev. Bermon presented Pastor Richabaugh, a student minister, to the church council. Pastor Richabaugh conducted the services during the summer months of 1952. Visitations were still being made to enlarge the membership of Redeemer Church.

At the congregational meeting on September 21, the Rev. William H. Snyder was unanimously called as the new pastor, pending his acceptance, for the Harborcreek pastorate. This pastorate consists of the Hope Lutheran Church and our Church. The Rev. William H. Snyder accepted the call, arrived in October and conducted his first local service on Reformation Sunday, October 26. A parsonage was bought at 2724 Athens Road and the Pastor and his family soon became permanent residents. To everyone, the church was becoming more of a reality.

In October, 1952, the ground breaking ceremony initiated the building of the church. There was no turning back, for the faith of the congregation was too strong. "Build our Church, give it a good Foundation."

The cornerstone was laid on December 7, 1952, and the dreams were taking shape in block and mortar, wood and brass. The dream of a Sunday School, of a Men's Brotherhood, of a Women of the Church, of a Luther League could now become a reality.

At last the church was completed. The dedication service was conducted on March 1, 1952, three hundred and five persons attending, filling the church.

Today, Redeemer is impressive in its countryside setting and gives a warm feeling. This feeling is augmented by the Men of the Brotherhood, on week days mowing the lawns, weeding and painting, and the Women keeping the interior of the church clean.

Wm. H. Snyder was the first pastor and served this parish until 1957. In 1958 Bailey O. Herrington came.

Erie (Lakewood) Immanuel 1940

THE need for a Lutheran Church in the Lakewood area west of Erie was recognized in the late 1930's by the Synod. The Synodical Board of American Missions appointed seminary student Frank R. Morton to survey the community early in the summer of 1940 and, as a result, an invitation was extended to the residents of the community to attend the first service in the Lakewood School in July. The congregation was formally organized on September 22, 1940 and adopted the name of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church. Thirty-one names are on the charter list.

The Rev. Paul J. Mumford, who had served as mission organizer, was called to become the first regular pastor in October, 1940. Early in his ministry lots were purchased on the southwest corner of Tenth Street and Powell Avenue and the foundation of the new church building was begun. The war years, however, brought a halt to further building and the congregation continued to worship in the school. A steady growth in the membership made the need for adequate facilities more and more evident.

The Rev. William G. Leubin began his pastorate in February, 1947. Plans were immediately revived to complete the foundation and erect a superstructure which would be of stone in modern northern European design.

The existing foundation was lengthened thirty feet and then enclosed. May, 1948 was an important month in the history of Immanuel. On Sunday, May 2, the last service was held in the Lakewood School where the congregation had worshipped for almost eight years. It was a service of thanksgiving for God's unfailing help, and of gratitude to the school authorities for the use of the schoolhouse during war-lean years. May 9 saw the first service in the new basement, with an attendance which taxed the facilities of the new place of worship.

Although the basement was used for worship, church school and auxiliary activities of the congregation, the construction of the superstructure continued. On Sunday evening, August 8, 1948, the cornerstone was laid at a special service at which the Rev. Donald L. Houser, Synodical Superintendent of Missions preached.

Sunday, June 26, 1949, marked the end of almost nine years of church services in basements. Immanuel's beautiful church building was dedicated to the glory of God in the presence of a congregation of 310 persons. The building is of Briar Hill stone, trimmed with Indiana limestone. Up to the day of dedication, $83,000.00 had been spent in addition to thousands of hours of volunteer labor by the men of the congregation.

Since occupying the whole building in 1949, many additional physical improvements have been made. The rapidly growing congregation saw the need of additional room and, in 1951, purchased lots adjoining its property with a new educational building in mind. In 1954 more property was purchased until now the church lot measures 235 x 250 feet on one of the fine corners in the Lakewood area. Plans are underway for the erection of the new educational unit in the very near future.

Immanuel's growth has proved that the Synod acted wisely in sponsoring the work in Lakewood. There have been added to the original thirty-one charter members hundreds of others which now necessitates multiple Sunday morning services. The Church School is much hindered because of overtaxed facilities.

In addition to student Frank R. Morton who made the survey, Immanuel has had two ordained pastors: Paul J. Mumford, 1940-1946; and William G. Leubin, 1947 —.

Erie Luther Memorial 1861

(See Plate 11)

AUGUST 15, 1861 marked the birth of a second Lutheran congregation in Erie, Pennsylvania, and was named "The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church." The name was descriptive, for it announced the presence of an English speaking Lutheran congregation in the city. Since 1808, St. John's was the only Lutheran church in this area and her services were exclusively in the German language. In order to provide services of worship and educational opportunities in the English language, the Pittsburgh Synod in 1859 took action to establish the "Lake Shore Mission" which was to serve St. Peter's in Millcreek and establish an English Mission in Erie. The Rev. John Henry Wilburn Stuckenberg was appointed Missionary and began his ministry in the summer of 1861. After a few weeks of services held in an old frame schoolhouse on Federal Hill (now upper Peach Street), he organized "The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church" with forty-one charter members.

The early years were dark and discouraging for the country was engaged in the Civil War. When the congregation was but thirteen months old, the pastor enlisted as a chaplain and left Erie September 1, 1862. One of the historic mementoes of the congregation is the flag presented to Chaplain Stuckenberg by the congregation. After thirteen months service, he returned to his congregation on October 13, 1863 and rallied this shepherdless flock. The congregation during the first year had paid $1,200.00 for a lot on the southwest corner of Eleventh and Peach Streets and made plans for a church building. During the pastor's absence, the building program lagged but upon his return these plans were carried out and a modest frame chapel completed. It was dedicated on Holy Thursday, 1864 with the Rev. W. A. Passavant, D. D., assisting the pastor. The records show there were seventy communing members at that time. A year later on May 28, 1865 the pastor resigned.

As Missionary of the "Lake Shore Mission" Pastor Stuckenberg served two congregations. The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church petitioned the Synod for a full-time pastor, which petition was granted and the Rev. Jacob Lawson Smith became its second pastor. He preached his initial sermon November 5, 1865 and began the task of transforming a scattered, struggling group of discouraged Lutherans into a self-sustaining congregation. The membership was more than doubled. Pastor Smith guided the congregation in securing its charter August 11, 1866. When he resigned April 23, 1871, he left his mark upon the city and the congregation he so loyally served.

The Rev. John R. Groff came January, 1872 and served until August, 1874 but in that brief time he accomplished three goals for which he shall be remembered. First — he introduced the liturgy which was either unknown or misunderstood by the membership. There were some who violently opposed yet others with equal zeal accepted the liturgy. Second — chancel appointments were provided. It is said that when Pastor Groff came to the congregation the altar was a marble-top table flanked by two parlor chairs. Pastor Groff ordered lumber and with his own hands built an altar and two large clergy chairs. Third — Pastor Groff's vision extended beyond his congregation. He saw the need for a Lutheran Church in southwest Erie. For $1,300.00 they purchased a lot at the corner of "Liberty and West Buffalo Street," but the panic of 1873 delayed the establishment of "The Zion's Lutheran Church" until 1890.

The fourth pastor was the Rev. Herman Henry Bruning who began his ministry November 1, 1874 and continued to May 1, 1880. The hour was dark, for the

panic of 1873 had brought financial ruin to many members of the congregation, making it difficult to meet the congregation's budget. The atmosphere of this era was charged with fierce strife, for everywhere church policies and doctrines were argued often with more heat than light, for this was the period of the upheaval in the church when the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh Synod and other synods withdrew and formed the General Council. Naturally, sentiment was divided and issues bitterly debated. The liturgy and chancel appointments were still battle-grounds.

Into this unsettled, confused and often acrimonious group of two hundred communicants came this pastor, who is remembered for his gentleness, his quiet dignity, his plodding care of the souls of his people, his patient instruction of the children of the Parish in the essentials of the Christian faith. Such was the spirit of Pastor Bruning and he laid a foundation on which his successors could build. His contributions were intensive rather than extensive, in spiritual tolerance and patience rather than in physical properties. His truly was a spiritual mission.

One who is a member of the congregation and knew intimately the Rev. I. O. Baker has called this quarter century pastorate "A Golden Age" in the history of the congregation. And so it was, for its effects were far-reaching and are felt to this day.

On June 12, 1881, the Rev. I. O. Baker was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the Rev. Henry Warren Roth, D. D. He was the only pastor ordained in this modest frame church building. After a period of adjustment, the congregation settled down to serious and steady work, as noted by the following accomplishments: In 1882 the "Ladies' Working Association" was re-organized. In 1883 "The Luther League" was organized. It was the first organization by that name in northwestern Pennsylvania. Later this was merged with the "Mission League" organized in 1890. In 1884 the "Young People's Guild" held its first meeting. In 1903 the "Martin Luther Brotherhood" was formed. In 1904 the "Passavant Missionary Circle" was begun, which enrolled both men and women. In 1908 this Circle was merged with the "Luther League."

But the labor for which many remember Pastor Baker was his leadership in the erection of the congregation's second house of worship. On March 16, 1884, the last service was held in the old frame chapel. A member of the congregation, who was a confirmand that year, stated to the writer that after a class period Pastor Baker took the members outside and pointing skyward said, "Young people, we are going to build a new church building here with a spire so high it will pierce the clouds." On June 1, the cornerstone of this new church was laid. The cost is stated to have been $30,000.00, a tremendous sum for that day. Many members spent their evenings doing carpenters' work and other construction tasks. The first service was held in the new building on Christmas Day, 1884, on the occasion of the festivities of the Sunday School. The first service of worship was held on the first Sunday of January, 1885. It was not until two years later, June 5, 1887, that the church was dedicated. At this service, the congregation received its present name, "Luther Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church" in honor of the founder of the Protestant Church.

The building of the new church seemed to give the congregation a mind to accept other tasks. On the first Sunday of April, 1890, a Mission Sunday School was opened in Vogel's Store on West Eighteenth Street and on Easter Sunday, 1891 Zion's Chapel was opened with the cost of the chapel borne by Mr. Hiram L. Berst and Luther Memorial congregation. On December 13, 1895, this mission was

organized as Zion's English Lutheran Church and its first Pastor, the Rev. W. E. Frey, D. D., was ordained and installed. (See history of this congregation.)

On November 19,1893, a Mission Sunday School was organized on the east side in the home of Mr. Schermerhorn on the corner of Seventh and Wayne Streets. On June 17, 1894, Grace chapel was dedicated and on October 8, 1905 Grace congregation was organized with fifty-three charter members. On December 29, 1905, Luther Memorial presented the chapel debt-free to the congregation.

On June 4, 1893, Pastor Baker organized the St. Peter's English Lutheran Church at North East, Pa., with Luther Memorial congregation giving a gift of $1,000.00 for the encouragement of the congregation.

An immeasurably strengthened Luther Memorial and three organized mission congregations stand as monuments to the zeal and devotion of this Servant of God and the congregation he led.

After the longest pastorate the congregation had enjoyed to that date, there followed the longest vacancy, for the church was without a pastor for nearly a year and a half. Although the pulpit was occupied regularly by capable men, yet there was no pastoral work being done. As a result, church attendance decreased, financial support dwindled and members drifted away. To stem this tide, an aggressive pastor was needed and was found in the person of the Rev. George Franklin Gehr, D. D., who accepted the call extended by the congregation and began work August 1, 1907. Immediately the church property was put in splendid repair and an evangelistic effort begun. In 1908, the Junior Luther League was organized and in 1910 the Women's Missionary Society was organized. The weekly envelope system was installed which enabled the congregation to continue its benevolent gifts, as well as maintain its local program. He resigned this congregation October 1, 1913.

The Rev. Earl Cameron Herman became pastor of Luther Memorial in the fall of 1914. These were the years of World War I, which brought material prosperity at times, but which bled the spiritual and organizational life of the church. Pastor Herman gained community recognition for the congregation, guided an Evangelism Program which increased the membership in excess of one thousand souls, directed the congregation in the appointment and selection of a Building Committee in 1920 to guide the congregation in building a new church which would more adequately meet the needs of this growing congregation in the heart of an expanding city. The congregation at a called meeting October 16, 1921 took action to purchase lots at 255-231 West Tenth Street, where the church now stands. The purchase price was $44,000.00.

For some years the dream of a new church building was taking form. The leaders of the congregation were becoming increasingly aware of the need of a church building which would more adequately manifest to this expanding community the surging life of this growing congregation. New lots were secured and new plans were under consideration, when a new pastor with vision, zeal and experience came as leader and guide. On December 19, 1921, the members of Luther Memorial had just cause for Christmas jubilation when the Rev. E. Maclay Gearhart, D. D., became their pastor.

From 1921 to 1925, the pastor and his committee studied the plans for what was to be "The Church Beautiful." On Easter Sunday morning, April 12, 1925, following the Chief Service, the congregation marched from the old church at Eleventh and Peach Streets and at the new site held the traditional ground-breaking ceremony. On June 28, 1925, the cornerstone was laid by the Pastor, who was assisted by the officers of the congregation and of the Pittsburgh Synod, which was

in convention at St. John's Lutheran Church. On September 19, 1926, with the building completed, the service of dedication was held at which the President of the Synod, the Rev. Ellis B. Burgess, D. D., preached the sermon with the pastor performing the act of dedication. In the meantime, the members of the congregation set themselves to the gigantic task of financing this new church which was to cost in excess of $350,000.00. (In 1951, the congregation in celebrating its 90th Anniversary and the 25th Anniversary of the erection of the church building invited Dr. Gearhart to write the history of the building of the church. Many anecdotes and interesting details are found in that history, a copy of which together with the 50th Anniversary Book, the 75th Anniversary Book and the Dedication Issue will be found in the Langenheim Memorial Library at Thiel College.)

Then came the agonizing years of the depression, which left their mark upon the brows of many, but Luther Memorial with true, Christian dignity and absolute integrity met all her obligations.

After eighteen years of struggle, sacrifice and prayer, the mortgage was burned with a solemn and thankful ceremony. The date was Sunday, May 7, 1944. The President of the Pittsburgh Synod, the Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., preached the sermon. It was a never to be forgotten day for those who built well, worked hard and now saw the fruits of their labors in the classic poem of stone.

Several additional items deserve inclusion in this history. In 1928, Luther Memorial was host to the Sixth Biennial Convention of the United Lutheran Church in America, which met October 9th to 16th.

In 1939, Sister Edith Baden came to assist the pastor in this growing congregation. She continued to serve until her retirement on June 1, 1954.

In 1947, another advance step was taken in the calling of an associate pastor in the person of the Rev. Arthur L. Ruths, who was ordained and installed May 18th by the President of the Pittsburgh Synod, the Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., assisted by the pastor and Conference and Synod representatives. He served until 1950.

May 23, 1948 saw the dedication of "Luther Memorial Parish Center" at 234 West Eleventh Street, immediately to the rear of the church. This Center has served as a meeting place for auxiliaries and has offered limited recreational opportunities to the youth.

On July 16, 1950, the Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., having completed two terms as President of the Pittsburgh Synod, was extended a call to become pastor of Luther Memorial. This call was accepted effective September 1 and the Installation Service was conducted by the President of Synod, the Rev. G. Lawrence Himmelman, D. D., on September 10th.

In 1952, Seminarian Gilson C. Waldkoenig was elected associate pastor and served for two and one-half years. Seminarian Charles W. Kampmeyer was called in 1955 and served for one year.

In 1952, the property at 219 West Tenth Street, adjoining the church to the east, was purchased for $30,000.00 for protective purposes and to offer opportunities for possible future expansion. This same year, a Nursery School was organized which cares for children three and four years of age, five days each week.

In 1953, a Matins Service was inauguarted. To provide during the morning Worship Hour worship opportunities for all ages, a Junior Church was established in 1952 and a Children's Church in 1953.

In 1952 and 1953, the nave and chancel were re-decorated and new lighting equipment provided at a cost of approximately $18,000.00. None of the above im-

provements or property purchases placed any indebtedness on the congregation. Instead, since 1944, the congregation has been gathering a "Church Expansion Fund" which shall be used to modernize, enlarge and renovate the educational facilities of the parish. To this end, a "Long-Range Planning and Survey Committee" has been at work during 1955 and 1956 which shall provide a goal for the congregation, as in 1961 it closes its one hundred years of life and begins its second century of service.

In 1955, the property at 230-232 West Eleventh Street, adjoining the Parish Center to the east, was purchased for $14,000.00 to provide for the enlargement of educational facilities.

At present the congregation has two sons in the active ministry, the Rev. Kenneth H. Cornell and the Rev. Lewis R. Fox. Three young men are now studying for the Gospel Ministry, Bailey Herrington at Gettysburg Seminary, Gerald Kissell at Chicago Seminary and William Oesterlin at Thiel College.

Pastors who have served Luther Memorial are: John Henry Wilbun Stuckenberg, D. D., 1861-1865; Jacob Lawson Smith, D. D., 1865-1871; John R. Groff, 1872-1874; Herman Henry Bruning, D. D., 1874-1880; Isaac Oliver Baker, 1881-1905; George Franklin Gehr, D. D., 1907-1913; Earl Cameron Herman, D. D., 1914-1921; E. Maclay Gearhart, D. D., 1922-1950; H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., 1950-1957; Franklin L. Jensen, 1958 —.

Erie — Mt. Calvary — 1929

ON the traditional date of the birthday of the Christian Church, Pentecost, May 19, 1929, a small group of people gathered together in Whipple's Hall at 32nd St. and Ellsworth Avenue, Erie, Pa., to organize a new Lutheran congregation, and chose as its name the Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. John J. Meyers, D. D., then Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, responsible for the organization of the new congregation. Forty-two persons were present, 19 of whom became the charter members.

During the first four months the congregation was served by Student Pastor John M. Nycum, Jr., who was studying at Hamma Divinity School. In August, 1929, the congregation moved into a partially finished building at the site of the present church. Two lots had been chosen at the corner of W. 32nd Street and Green Garden Blvd. — one half of the cost being donated by the Andrews Land Company of Erie.

The building was dedicated on the same day that the Rev. James R. Beamer became the first full time pastor. He served the congregation from September 1, 1929 until August 1, 1936. The Synodical Board of American Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod, assisted by the Erie Church Extension Society of the Erie Conference made the financing of the building possible, while the men of the congregation did much of the work themselves.

On June 21, 1936, the three stained glass windows in the chancel were unveiled and dedicated. The East window has the motif Purity, symbolized by lillies, and representing the Resurrection, presented by the Adult Bible Class. The central window, presented in memory of Vincent Buoy, shows the cross, crown and open Bible, symbolic of Faith, Hope and Charity. The west window, in memory of Elizabeth M. Huff, mother of Mrs. James Beamer, has the motif Divine Love,

symbolized by roses. The principles applied in the designing and execution of these windows are the same as those in the great windows of the 13th Century.

The first years were difficult years, due to the depression of the '30s, yet they were years of achievement and growth.

The Rev. Lewis R. Fox served the congregation from November 29, 1936 through September 10, 1946. During his pastorate, Mt. Calvary was joined with the St. John's Lutheran Church, Girard, in a two church parish, both congregations being served by him.

On May 14, 1939, at the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the church, which had become known as "The Little White Church on the Hill", there were 195 Confirmed members. The Fifteenth Anniversary and the burning of the Mortgage on the church building both were celebrated on September 24, 1944. In November of that year, the congregation, looking forward to the future, purchased two adjoining lots to the south.

The Rev. C. Wayne Peterman became Pastor of the congregation October 6, 1946 serving until May 1, 1951. During his pastorate, connection with the Girard parish was severed, and Pastor Peterman was called to organize a new Lutheran congregation, St. Paul's on Grubb Rd., west of Erie, which he served along with Mt. Calvary until June, 1950, when Mt. Calvary asked and received approval to sever the two church parish in favor of a full time ministry of its pastor.

In November, 1946, a parsonage was purchased at 2922 Raspberry St. for $8,500.00. The unified budget system was instituted in 1947. When the 20th Anniversary was celebrated May 19, 1949 there were 202 Confirmed Members.

In 1950 plans were begun to enlarge the facilities, and a building fund campaign was set up and carried out. Two additional lots were purchased to the west of the church property. Difficulties arose due to finances and material shortages, and building plans for the congregation were deferred to a later time. Interest continued high, and the congregation began to accumulate funds for expansion. An Evangelism committee was organized among the members, being responsible for the addition of many new members for the Church.

The Rev. John E. Bermon, who is presently serving the congregation, took office July 1, 1951, and was installed July 15 of that year. In the summer of 1951 plans were again discussed for building an addition to the church and matured in April, 1952 when construction on a new basement unit was begun and dedicated on January 4, 1953. Cost of the addition was $47,000.00, with the indebtedness at the time of dedication amounting to $33,900.00. At the service an altar, altar cross, canadlesticks and pulpit for the basement chancel were also dedicated. Men of the church, as had others before them, did much of the interior finishing work in the basement. When the city completed street paving on both sides of the church property, in 1955 and 1956, the lots belonging to the church were landscaped, sidewalks laid, and a parking lot to the rear of the church was prepared.

The congregation was the recipient of a bequest from the Moses L. Treuwart estate in the amount of $3,000.00 which was voted to be used for the purchase of a Hammond Electric Organ. It was dedicated to the Glory of God on December 13, 1953, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Treuwart, charter members of the congregation.

On May 19, 1954 the congregation celebrated its Silver Anniversary with a fellowship dinner in the church honoring the charter members, former pastors, and all who were instrumental in the steady growth of the parish.

Another milestone was reached, when, after receiving salary aid from the Synod since its organization, the congregation became self-sustaining as of January 1, 1955.

However, it remains a mission congregation in so far as it has received a loan from the Mission Board for the addition to its facilities.

A gift of $100 was received from the family of Otto Zuern, a charter member who passed into Life in 1956, given in his memory. It will be used toward the construction of a new outdoor church bulletin board.

The largest confirmation class in the history of the congregation was received on May 20, 1956 when 26 young people united with our congregation.

Boy Scouts, working for the Pro Deo et Patria award, the Lutheran Church Scouting Award, were instrumental in building the Sunday School altar, lectern, flower stands, missal stand and bookcase for the organist. They also assisted in painting the basement, repairing chairs, and mending hymnals. Eight members of the church have received this award, and eight others are currently working toward this goal.

Our membership stands at 412 confirmed. The Sunday School has an enrollment of 233 and a staff of 28 teachers and officers.

The following members have served Mt. Calvary: James R. Beamer, 1929-1936; Lewis R. Fox, 1936-1946; C. Wayne Peterman, 1946-1951; John E. Bermon, 1951 —.

Erie — St. John's — 1808

THEY came early to a new land, this group that began the history of St. John's. Even before Erie County was designated as such, on March 12, 1800, their migrations had begun. From 1798 until 1805, there was a steady influx of German Pennsylvanians, pioneer farmers, treking from Berks, Lancaster, and Dauphin Counties. Here, in the ridgeland wilderness overlooking Lake Erie and the village of Erie, they cleared their lands, built their homes, and established their farms.

They found time to write a pleading letter to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania describing their plight. In it they emphasized how deplorable it was "to do without sermon, baptism, catechetical instruction, and the Lord's Supper, and earnestly begged for a pastor to visit them from time to time.

The first pastor whose ministry we can establish was that of the Reverend Philip Muckenhaupt. Settling in Crawford County in 1803, he included the Erie group in his parish. He conducted services until 1811 when he was recalled by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

The exact date of the first meeting of the members of St. John's as a congregation will perhaps never be established. That a congregation was in existence before 1808 is in evidence. The records were not kept until August 18, 1808. On that date twenty children and one mother were baptized.

From 1811 until 1815 the church was served intermittently by the Reverend Wilhelm Scriba and the Reverend Peter Rupert, "travelling preachers" who served the Crawford, Erie County area.

In 1815 the Ministerium commissioned the Reverend Carl Wilhelm Colsen to care for the churches in the area. In addition to caring for the four churches in his parish, he also preached on occasion as far west as Ohio along the lake shore.

He is the first pastor to record a communion service in the St. John's Church Book, dated September 24, 1815. Only eight names were recorded for this particular service.

The faithful work of Pastor Colsen was destined to be short. Intense of spirit but frail of body, he fell victim of pneumonia and succumbed on December 29, 1816 at Meadville. The seasons of more than a century have not obliterated the moss covered marker on his grave in Greendale Cemetery, Meadville.

The Ministerium, after the death of Colsen, delegated for the task a young man who was destined to write a brilliant chapter in the history of our Lutheran Church in America and India.

Following Pastor Heyer's pastorate, the Reverend Peter Rupert returned to the field of his former labors. It was during his pastorate (1819-1823) that the first class of cathechumens was received into the membership of St. John's on November 26, 1820.

From 1823 until 1825 there is a break in the records of the pastors but it is probable that the Reverend Phillip Meyerhoeffer of Venango served during this period.

On September 4, 1825, the Reverend John Carl Rebenach accepted a call to the Erie Church, and to him belongs the distinction of being the first resident pastor. Like his predecessors, however, his pastorate was brief, and after his departure in 1826, the parish was vacant until 1829.

On January 1, 1835, St. John's began not only a new year, but a new epoc in her history. On that date the congregation reorganized and adpoted a new constitution. One hundred male members signed the new charter. Strengthened and encouraged by the growing influx of European Germans, the Church launched into a larger program.

With the first 27 years of her history recorded, the little flock in Eagle Village, later the borough of South Erie, will no longer be served by traveling missionaries with headquarters in Meadville.

To lead this new movement the people turned to the Reverend Karl Friedrich Stohlmann, then a young candidate, recently arrived from Germany. It was during his pastorate that the congregation secured the present site of its Church, a plot comprising five acres, of what was then farm land. A gift by Conrad Brown, Sr., it is deeded in the language of that day to be held by this Church "so long a grass grows and water flows." Interestingly, the original grant now comprises a city block bounded by Peach and Sassafras Streets between West Twenty Second and West Twenty Third Streets. Originally used as a cemetery, it has now been turned over to residences, and in addition to the Church building, it is also the site for the Lutheran Home for the Aged.

During the three years of Pastor Stohlmann's service the parish moved steadily forward, increasing in numbers, and, at the same time, manifesting a new missionary zeal. Dr. Stohlman carried forward work in Crawford County, probably at what is now Drake's Mills, and also at Walnut Creek, which is most likely the present Kearsage. Stohlman accepted a call to St. Matthew's in New York City October 28th, 1838.

Assuming his duties as pastor in 1839, the Reverend Michael Kuchler distinguished himself on several accounts. Among other things he established the first Sunday School at St. John's and erected the first Church building of the parish, dedicated on August 8, 1842. Assisting at this cermeony were the Reverend H. Guenther, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Buffalo, and the Reverend Rathbun of the Church of the Apostles, Saegertown. The Church was a plain frame structure costing a few thousand dollars, but nonetheless an improvement over the schoolhouse in which the congregation had worshipped for so long.

June 10, 1846, marked the beginning of the ministry of the Reverend Friedrich Philip Feysel who was originally from Einbech, Hannover. To judge from the number of ministerial acts performed, we can see that the parish continued to prosper under his leadership. The church choir and the use of an organ are mentioned for the first time during this pastorate.

Reverend C. G. Stuebgen performed his first ministerial acts for the parish August 19, 1848, having come immediately following Pastor Feysel's departure. During the five years of his term the parish grew appreciably, and he records as high as 300 members communing at one time. A new organ costing $300 was consecrated Whitsunday May 27, 1849, and on May 6, 1850 the congregation was incorporated.

On August 21, 1853 Pastor F. W. Weiskotten began what was to be a brief and rather unhappy pastorate. Contentions had arisen in the parish, and from every indication, had created an undesirable situation for the pastor. Despite this, however, a parochial schoolhouse was built at this time, but sold within a year. Action to build a parsonage was also taken, then deferred for later consideration. Pastor Weiskotten terminated his ministry at Erie in August, 1854.

The next to assume the pastorate was the Reverend C. A. Brockman. He began his labor at St. John's on January 7, 1855. In his parochial reports he lists 465 communicants, and records 98 baptisms for one year. This would indicate a very definite increase in membership.

The cemetery of the congregation was dedicated June 3, 1859. One cannot help but wonder at the lapse of more than twenty years between the date that this land was given to the church until the date of its dedication.

Pastor Brockman relinquished his Erie work on June 29, 1859 after a pastorate of almost four and a half years. So ended the first half century of the congregation's history.

Entering the second half of her first century, St. John's called the Reverend Jacob Blass as their pastor. His ministry began on September 4, 1859. Under his aggressive leadership the congregation voted to build a new church at a meeting held March 15, 1860. The specifications called for a brick structure, 50 by 80 feet with a steeple. Despite dissensions within the congregation those plans were carried forward. The building was dedicated on September 14, 1862. It was erected at a cost of approximately $10,000 with an additional cost of $3,800 for a new organ. This building is still a part of the present structure and serves as a portion of the Church School for the parish.

In the meantime, however, significant events were in the making. Strife had arisen within the congregation, emanating first from the differences between the original Pennsylvania Germans and the European immigrants, and further aggravated now by the new building program. Justifiably the older group in the parish desired English services for their children who were being educated in English schools. As a result that portion of the parish representing the Pennsylvania German element now withdrew to form the first English Lutheran Church, now Luther Memorial Church. The date of the organization of the new congregation was August 15, 1861.

In the midst of these disheartening circumstances, Pastor Blass labored valiantly completed his building program, and then relinquished the parish on September 8, 1863.

The year 1872 was destined to become another memorable date for St. John's. It is significant because it marks the beginning of the nineteen year pastorate of the

Reverend Leopold Benze. Pastor Benze assumed his new duties at St. John's on Easter Sunday 1872.

The new field presented a real challenge. Years of dissention had left old wounds that now needed to be healed, the parish was disorganized, and the future was clouded.

With diligence and devotion Pastor Benze first gave himself to the task of uniting his divided parish. That he was signally successful in this effort is apparent in the steady growth that it manifest at this period. Among other things in his early years he organized a Woman's Society that has continued until today as a strong working arm of the church. Antedating the present Luther League movement he also organized Young Men's and Young Women's Societies.

As a result of this foresight and planning the congregation was prepared to meet the increasing need for a larger church, when, on July 1, 1883 they met to discuss a new building program.

Plans stipulated that an entirely new front with two large towers be added to the old church; the old galleries were to be removed; an organ loft was to be provided; and the entire interior of the old church was to be remodeled.

The contract was awarded to Louis Albracht at an estimated $21,837.41. However, the installation of a new bell was added to these original plans. When completed the new additions and renovations cost approximately $23,000. Services of dedication were held on May 3, 1885 with Pastor Benze officiating, while the Reverend Philip Doerr of Warren preached the German dedicatory sermon, and the Reverend I. O. Baker of Luther Memorial made the English address. The "new bell" then installed now has grown ancient in its years of faithful service. Yet still it calls clearly across the city announcing the beginning of every service conducted at St. John's.

When called home to his rich reward on January 18, 1891, he must have looked back with satisfaction on a labor that was not in vain. A bereaved congregation met to honor him in what is described as "one of the largest funerals ever held in Erie", and friends and members joined together to erect the monument that marks his last resting place in Erie Cemetery.

By common consent the congregation chose as their next pastor, the Rev. Gustave A. Benze. A son of the congregation as well as a son of the former pastor, he was elected to the office almost immediately following his father's death. He began his work on February 18, 1891, removing to Erie from Corry-Drake's Mill parish. Now was to begin a pastorate which would continue more than half a century, a period to be marked with growth and expansion in every phase of the church's work.

Almost immediately after taking up his new work, Pastor Benze began carrying forward the plans of his father to establish new Sunday Schools in the city. Accordingly, a school sponsored by the teacher's union of St. John', assisted by the church council, secured Saltsman's Hall at East Ave. and 18th St. After six weeks the school had enrolled 150 members, forcing the sponsors to seek larger, permanent quarters. Two city lots on East 22nd St. near East Ave., were then purchased and a chapel costing $1500 was erected. The new chapel was dedicated by Dr. Benze, assisted by the Rev. Carl Glatzert of New Castle, the Rev. Otto Poesche of East Green and the Rev. I. O. Baker of Erie, on June 17, 1894. This was the beginning of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, one of the strong parishes of our Synod today.

In the meantime other matters were moving apace in the parish. The St. John's Sunday School had grown to a place where the old building could no longer house

it. At a meeting of the congregation held December 2, 1894, plans were presented for an addition to provide larger facilities for the Sunday School and enlarge the seating capacity of the church. This plan was adopted by the congregation at a meeting held January 27, 1895.

Ground for the new addition was broken in September of 1895 and the cornerstone laid on June 14, 1896. One year later, May 9, 1897, the new building was dedicated with the Rev. John Mueller, pastor of St. James' Church, Altoona and the Rev. C. T. Benze of Beaver Falls and A. L. Benze, then a theological student, assisting at the service.

This addition became the new church proper, with the old church being remodeled for Sunday School purposes. It still remains such today. The entire structure, including the furniture and the imported stained glass windows, was completed at a cost of $32,326.16. The St. John's building which stands today as a result of building operations begun back in 1861, and enlarged twice since, was erected for a total cost of $65,326. It is presently appraised in excess of $500,000, or approximately eight times its original cost.

Immediately following the dedication of the new building the congregation was host to the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. As a result of this meeting in their midst the parish resolved to unite with the Pittsburgh Synod. This action was consummated in 1898.

It was also at this time that the Rev. C. Theodore Benze, a brother of Gustave, was called as a co-pastor. He began his work at St. John's on May 1, 1898 and continued until 1906, when he accepted a call to St. Stephen's which had now become self sustaining.

In the meantime the brothers had conjointly organized the St. Matthew's mission, which was begun as a Sunday School in May, 1901. Here the history of St. Stephen's was repeated. A permanent location was purchased in the form of a Baptist Chapel at Seventh and Cascade Sts. This building was bought at the instigation of the church council and duly dedicated as St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Luther's birthday, November 10, 1901. The pastors of St. John's, assisted by the Lutheran clergy of the city officiated at the dedication.

Realizing the necessity of more adequate care for the aged in the community, Dr. Benze next turned his attention to this field. His heart's desire for several years had been for the establishment of an institution which would meet this need. At the same time a committee on property chaired by Dr. Benze secured suitable property, a former Old Ladies' Home, situated on the St. John's plot at the corner of Sassafras and Twenty Second Sts. The building, then in use as a residence, was acquired for $2500 and turned over immediately to become The Lutheran Home for the Aged.

The new Home began its mission of mercy on March 1, 1906, with the constitutional proviso that members of the Board of Directors should be chosen from members of all the Lutheran churches of the city belonging to the General Council The last unit of the Home dedicated June 15, 1956 includes a beautiful chapel dedicated to the memory of the founder, Dr. G. A. Benze.

Among those who lent willing hands and hearts to the history of St. John's were the sisters of the parish. Their years of faithful service proved invaluable in the development of the parish program and it is with gratitude that we pay tribute to their unselfish contributions.

The first of those called to work in this field was Sister Amelia Goldhagen,

who took up her duties in April, 1914. Her term of office was not concluded until 1927, and during the thirteen years intervening she became a beloved figure in the parish. From 1927 until 1937 the parish was served by Sister Marie Freese, who in turn was succeeded by Sister Charlotte Weissgerber. Her term of office extended from 1937 until 1942. During the last year of Dr. Benze's pastorate Sister Mabel Harnish served the parish, continuing her work until November 1, 1954.

Dr. Benze's pastorate came to a sudden close on the night of October 29, 1943. Fittingly enough God's messenger came while he was in attendance at a Young Peoples' Meeting in the church, and the news of his going reached deep into the heart of the city. The newspapers headlined the loss of a great leader in the community and across the way the bells of St. Joseph's Catholic Church tolled "the knell of parting day" in tribute and honor to a good neighbor they loved and respected. In the meantime a stunned and shocked parish stood in silence remembering — remembering many things from an abundant ministry of more than fifty two years in their midst.

In any review of Dr. Benze's pastorate, it is not difficult to begin a detailing of his many activities and interests. He was a member of the first Board of Trustees of the Bethesda Home for Children and served continuously on this Board until the end of his life. Almost without exception he helped either directly or indirectly in the founding of the many Lutheran churches in the Erie area during his time. The memorial which marks his memory in the present church is fittingly inscribed "'Father of Churches". He died leaving an astounding record of pastoral activities which may be read in the following figures: Baptisms, 4,296; Confirmations, 3,170; Funerals, 3,694; Weddings, 1,840.

So far as we are able to determine this represents the largest record of a single pastorate in the history of the Pittsburgh Synod, and one of the largest in the history of the United Lutheran Church of America.

The present pastorate was begun by the Rev. Clair O. Dufford, who was called to the office on November 1, 1943. Since then the work has been largely given over to carrying forward the parish program already in progress.

By way of grateful acknowledgment, however, we should like to make note of the fine contribution made during this time by Sister Mabel Harnish, who as already noted, served the parish so effectively from 1942 until 1954. Her years of helpful, dedicated, unselfish service together with her real Christian spirit wielded a profound influence in the parish for which we shall ever be thankful.

It is thus the history of a church speaks to us. The years have written their account of faith on the march. The past unfolds its story of sacrifice and service for what purpose? May it be to inspire those who read, to face forward in the faith, that we may achieve more to the glory of God.

The following pastors have served St. John's: Philip Muckenhaupt (supply), 1808-1811; W. H. Scriba (supply), 1811; Peter Rupert (supply), 1814; C. W. Colsen, 1815-1816; J. C. F. Heyer, 1817-1818; Peter Rupert, 1819-1823; Philip Meyerhoeffer (supply), 1823-1825; J. K. Rebenach, 1825-1826; N. G. Scharretts (supply), 1826; Wilhelm Schulze, 1829-1830; Daniel Heilig, 1831-1834; C. F. E. Stohlmann, 1835-1838; Michael Kuchler, 1839-1845; F. P. Feysel, 1846-1848; C. G. Stuebgen, 1848-1853; F. W. Weiskotten, 1853-1854; C. A. Brockmann, 1855-1859; Jacob Blass, 1859-1863; Wilhelm Schaeffer, 1863-1866; G. Beck, 1866; C. F. Boehner, 1867-1872; A. L. Benze, 1872-1891; G. A. Benze, 1891-1943; C. T. Benze (associate), 1898-1906; Emory J. Ackerman (student), 1942-1943; Clair O. Dufford, 1943 —; Robert E. Kromer (associate), 1951-1952; Donald G. Love (associate), 1955 —.

Erie St. Matthew's 1904

UNDER the inspiration, initiative, and guidance of the church council of St. John's, Erie, plans for the organization of St. Matthew's were born. In September, 1901 Rev. G. A. Benze of St. John's, assisted by his brother, Rev. C. T. Benze of St. Stephen's, conjointly organized the St. Matthew's mission as a Sunday School. The Sunday School was begun in a rented shop, the Leuschen carpet store on Poplar Street near 8th. William Yingst served as the first superintendent. In a short time after the opening of the school it was deemed advisable to procure a permanent location.

On November 27, 1901 the property at 7th and Cascade Streets, once part of the estates of E. H. Mack and J. C. Thoms, was deeded to St. John's by the Baptist Church and Society of the Borough of Erie for $3,000. The outgrowth of the Sunday School mission brought forth the organization of a congregation on October 30, 1904. Shortly thereafter a charter was applied for, February 4, 1905.

On March 6, 1905 the charter was approved by Judge Emory A. Walling in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County. Then, on May 12th, 1905, the property, now known as our old church, was conveyed by the First United German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed St. John's Congregation of Erie to St. Matthew's for the remaining indebtedness of $2,500 and the 1905 taxes.

Rev. J. J. Neudoerffer was called to serve as the first pastor and led the congregation through the first four years of infancy. In 1908, according to the history recorded by St. John's, the St. Matthew's mission church had 111 communing members and 82 Sunday School pupils.

The Rev. Alex W. Stremel came to the congregation on July 1, 1921 from the Philadelphia Seminary. It was during his pastorate that the new church was built. A new church had been the dream of the congregation for many years. It was generally agreed that a larger membership could not be gathered until a more inviting house of God could be erected. At the 1922 congregational meeting it was unanimously voted to begin work toward a new church building.

On September 19 the congregation authorized its officers to enter upon a contract for the erection of the new church. The cost was to be $42,059. On December 10 the cornerstone was laid. Dr. T. B. Roth was the chief speaker. In the fall of 1923 Dr. Ellis B. Burgess, president of the synod, preached the dedication sermon.

The architecture of the present structure is a modern adaption of the French Gothic and the Cathedral type dating back to the 13 century. Masterpieces of France and Belgium provided the models.

In the spring of 1931 Rev. Sheldon S. Schweikert came to St. Matthew's and has served the congregation effectively since. Under his leadership and inspiration St. Matthew's has grown extensively. An epochal event occurred on November 27, 1944, when the mortgage on the church was burned.

In 1946 the church property was expanded with the acquistion of the property which is now the Parish House. After a few alterations the Parish House was formally dedicated June 20, 1948 with Rev. A. W. Stremel officiating.

With the continued growth of the congregation and especially the Sunday School, needs for greater expansion became pressing and so in 1952 the congregation undertook the renovation of the basement of the old and new church. The work was completed on April 12, 1953 when Memorial Hall and the Silver Chapel were dedicated to God's service.

The pastors who have served St. Matthew's are: J. J. Neudoerffer, 1905-1909; Herman F. Gruhn, 1909-1915; Harry B. Ernest, 1917-1921; Alex W. Stremel, 1921-1928; E. R. Capewell, 1928-1930; Sheldon S. Schweikert, D. D., 1931 —.

Erie — St. Stephen's — 1898

(See Plate 12)

ST. STEPHEN'S was begun by St. John's Lutheran Church of Erie. It was started in 1883 as a Sunday School with an enrollment of 150 pupils meeting at Saltsman's Hall, 18th Street and East Avenue. Two lots were purchased in 1894 for $1,200 from the Saltsman farm at East 22nd Street near East Avenue. A suitable chapel was erected at a cost of $1,500 and dedicated June 17, 1894. After dedication Rev. A. L. Benze, then a theological student, conducted services and named the church, St. Stephen's.

On the first Sunday of May, 1889, Rev. C. T. Benze was called as Assistant Pastor of St. John's and entrusted with special care of St. Stephen's.

On June 3, 1898 he formally organized St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The present parsonage was constructed in 1903. The congregation received its charter on February 27, 1905 which was signed by 70 members. It was admitted into the Pittsburgh Synod June 24, 1905. The congregation became self-sustaining in 1906 and Rev. C. T. Benze became Pastor of St. Stephen's. The congregation was organized in German, but English and German were used in Sunday School. Soon the evening service was held in English.

The second pastor was Rev. L. O. Benze, D. D., brother of Rev. C. T. Benze. He was installed November 12, 1909.

A new church which was dedicated May 21, 1911 was erected at a cost of $8,000. There arose the necessity of making the transition from the German to the English language so that the majority could be served. The annex was purchased at this time. It has been used for Sunday School purposes and at present is used by the caretaker. A beautiful pipe organ, which is still in use, was purchased and installed. On February 1, 1926 Rev. L. O. Benze resigned and in April of that year Rev. Samuel Boerstler was installed. He inaugurated the Daily Vacation Bible School which is still held every summer. The Common Service Book was introduced that year. Two Missionary Societies were organized as was an Athletic Association, the Altar Guild, and the Usher's Society.

An addition was built to the rear of the church and the church remodeled and dedicated September 11, 1927. Rev. Boerstler resigned on May 11, 1938.

Rev. Albert U. Gesler was called and installed November 22, 1938. It had been decided to hold only English Services as it was felt the German service was no longer needed.

A Missionary society for young women was organized as was the Children of the Church which meets during the chief service every Sunday. The Daughters of St. Stephen's was organized and the Pastor's Aid was reorganized as was the Servicemen's Auxiliary.

In August of 1942 the congregation completed the payment of the debt on the church and annex. In 1943 a new slate roof was put on the church and the interior redecorated.

On May 12, 1946 a service was held to dedicate the stained glass windows. The smaller windows and side windows were given as memorials and organizations of the church. The large memorial window was presented by the congregation and friends in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice and in honor of those who served in the Armed Forces from December 7, 1941 to September 4, 1945.

In 1947 a two car garage and storage room were built. The congregation has continued to grow in number through the years.

Two members of the church, Rev. Elmer Wentz and Rev. Emory Kilburn have been ordained as ministers and Sr. Doris Engel entered the diaconate. At present Albert Gesler, Jr., and Ralph Walter, Jr., are studying for the ministry.

The following pastors have served St. Stephen's: C. T. Benze, 1906-1909; L. O. Benze, D. D., 1909-1926; Samuel Boerstler, 1926-1938; Albert U. Gesler, Ph. D., 1938 —.

Erie — Zion's — 1895

ZION'S Church was organized December 13, 1895, developing out of a Sunday School started by Luther Memorial Church in a vacant store room in West 18th Street in Apirl, 1890. This school quickly outgrew its quarters and Hiram L. Berst, a prominent member of Luther Memorial, donated a lot on Poplar Street near Nineteenth, on which a frame chapel was erected and furnished at a cost of $3,000. From the time this mission school took possession of the new chapel, April 5, 1891 its growth was rapid. More than 300 scholars were enrolled. The sessions were held Sunday afternoon, drawing a large crowd from the neighborhood. Well attended preaching services were also held on Friday evenings. This led to an increasing desire for a church organization. The Pittsburgh Synod lent assistance in 1895 with a missionary appropriation of $300, leaving the selection of a missionary to the church council of Luther Memorial.

At that convention of synod the lay delegate from Uniontown Parish was William E. Frey, a recent graduate of the Philadelphia Seminary. Pastor I. O. Baker interested this young man in the new mission; and the result was that he came to Erie October 19, 1895 to take charge of the mission. In a short time Pastor Frey had forty seven people signing an agreement "to associate themselves together in the organization of a second English Lutheran Church." On Friday evening, November 15, 1895 these persons adopted a resolution asking the church council of Luther Memorial to extend a call on their behalf to Pastor Frey. Such a call was extended and accepted. Steps were taken at once to effect a permanent organization. The constitution recommended by the General Council was adopted December 13, 1895.

Of the 47 original members 34 were received from Luther Memorial. In the presence of the newly-formed congregation candidate Frey was ordained by the authority of the Pittsburgh Synod December 17, 1895. His installation took place at the same service. There was a debt of $2,040 at the time of the organization. Twelve hundred dollars of this was assumed by Luther Memorial and $840 by Hiram L. Berst. This made it possible for the church to start free of debt.

To Hiram L. Berst, more than to any other one man, Zion's owes her success in the days of infancy. In three years the church passed the mission stage, self-support being assumed March 1, 1898. A charter was secured August 24, 1896 and the church was admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod a few days later. The first building

venture of the congregation was the erection of a parish house in 1899 at a cost of $1,200. After the death of Hiram L. Berst in 1908 Mrs. Berst made a memorial gift to the congregation of a plot of ground on Brown's Avenue and Liberty Street as a site for a new church. The cornerstone of this church was laid October 6, 1912 and the completed church was dedicated by Pastor Frey March 9, 1913. Dr. T. B. Roth delivered the chief address. This church was built of pressed brick and stone at a cost of $30,000.

In 1920 the silver anniversary of the ordination and installation of the first and only pastor of Zion's was observed, attracting large gatherings of clergy and laity. Two societies of Zion's are older than the congregation, two Luther Leagues having been organized in 1894.

On December 20, 1944 William E. Frey ended his pastorate in death. He had just completed 49 years of service in his first and only church. Rev. Kenneth H. Cornell was called on March 11, 1945 to become the second pastor of Zion's. He was installed April 25, 1945.

Gold Star men in World War II were Robert George Beckwith, Ross Kenneth English, Ralph M. Ecklund, and Bert Howard Bonnell. Mr. Victor Theodore Benson was the first of Zion's sons to enter the ministry. He was ordained in his home church June 5, 1955.

The only two pastors who have served Zion's are: William E. Frey, 1895-1944; Kenneth H. Cornell, 1945 —.

Erie County Prince Of Peace 1955

PRINCE OF PEACE Lutheran Church is located in Greene Township about five miles southeast of Erie. This is a rural area with a slowly but steadily growing population, as more and more people move from the city to the country. in 1954 a few people began to recognize the need for a Protestant church to meet the needs of this growing community. These people, under the guidance of the Rev. Paul L. Himmelman, then pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Erie, canvassed the community in February of 1955. On March 13, 1955 the first worship service was held in a social hall rented for the occation.

Pastor Paul Himmelman served as spiritual leader of this new church until July 1, 1955, when the Rev. David Schweingruber was called to serve the congregation in a full time capacity, first as mission developer and later as pastor.

On October 9, 1955 the congregation was formally organized with sixty-five charter members. Since that time the congregation has grown slowly so that there are now eighty-nine confirmed members. The congregation has continued to meet in the social hall where its first service was held. Now, however, just a few weeks before our second anniversary as an organized congregation, we will move into our own building, a new house-chapel.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is still an infant as far as congregations go. We are barely beginning to walk. But we have already rendered a service to our community and our Lord and the future is bright with promise.

Etna Emmanuel 1900

(See Plate 12)

ALTHOUGH the formal history of Emmanuel Lutheran Church does not begin until January 21, 1900, the date the congregation was regularly organized, its real beginnings are to be found in the history of the West Etna Union Mission Sabbath School. This union mission school came into being as a result of the efforts of members of several different denominations who recognized the need for such an institution in the West end of town. Under the direction of Mr. W. J. Smith and Mr. Albert Lambing, funds were secured from the general public for the purpose of erecting a chapel on Vilsack Street. After the chapel was dedicated in May, 1894, a union Sunday School was organized with about one hundred members. A Board of Trustees was elected to manage the affairs of the organization.

These trustees appointed a committee to secure ministers from neighboring towns to conduct services every two weeks and to arrange for leaders for the regular Tuesday evening prayer meetings.

Rev. C. B. King, Missionary President of Pittsburgh Synod, upon visiting the mission in October, 1898, suggested that a Lutheran Church be organized, since the largest number of workers in the mission were Lutherans. No action was taken on this suggestion until he re-visited the mission in November, 1899, when he found that a sizeable group of members had developed a strong desire for a Lutheran Church. He realized that the time was ripe and made a house-to-house canvass of the community, accompanied by Emma Seel, securing the names of forty-eight persons as charter members of the proposed organization. The congregation was regularly organized on January 21, 1900 as Emmanuel Evangelical English Lutheran Church.

The organization was effected in the mission chapel, where the first two services were held. The mission organization continued in existence for several weeks, when the mission trustees sold the property, including chapel, chairs, bookcase and organ, to the new organization for $438.87. This amount was not divided among the 7 different denominations who sponsored the Union Mission, but was all given to the Union Mission on Butler St., Etna, Pa., which is now the Nazarene Church.

In February, the month following organization, the lot at the corner of Grant and Highland Avenues was purchased for $1400 from Mr. and Mrs. George Trube. Though they had been offered $2,000 for it, Mrs. Trube's love for the church prompted this donation of $600. Since this lot seemed ideal as a permanent location for the church, it was decided not to move the old chapel to the new lot but instead, to erect a new, more elaborate building.

Rev. Jerome M. Guss was installed as first pastor on March 15, 1900. The Ladies Aid and Missionary Society was organized the same day and the treasurer chosen that wintry night, with snow knee-deep, was Miss Tillie E. Seel, who was their faithful, efficient treasurer, continuously, for fifty years. The first communion service, held on April 15, 1900, was attended by the entire congregation of 52 members and also by three visitors. Plans for the new church building rapidly took shape with the result that the cornenstone was laid October 14, 1900 at a service attended by a large delegation of ministers and laymen from the Pittsburgh Synod which was in session at the time in Mt. Zion Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh. The new church, costing about $7,000.00 was dedicated on January 20, 1901 just one day short of a year after the organization of the congregation, the pastor being assisted in the dedication service by Rev. H. H. Weber, D. D., of York, Pa.

It was necessary that the Advisory Board of Home Missions help to pay the $700 annual salary of the pastor for only four years, giving $300.00 a year for the

first two years, $187.50 the third year, and $75.00 the fourth year. The Board of Church Extension lent $1500.00 without interest which was paid back toward the close of 1906, whereupon the Board donated $300.00 to the congregation. In May, 1904 the parsonage was purchased for $3,750.00. The second mortgage on the church was burned on January 21, 1907. The mother of Mrs. J. J. Keil, Mrs. Rachel Hilbert, then ninety-two years old, applied the match.

During the first four years, 270 persons were received into the fellowship of the church; thus, the church quickly grew and was blessed both in a spiritual sense and in a financial way. The number of organizations continued to grow and the Sunshine Bible Class, itself organized on February 28, 1909 with twenty-one members, in turn organized the Home Department of the Sunday School in April 1910.

After over ten years of earnest and faithful work, Rev. J. M. Guss resigned from the pastorate on November 1, 1910. Rev. T. B. Uber was installed on March 6, 1911. On April 18, 1912, the first mortgage on the church was burned, lighted by Grandmother Pfischner.

Since the Sunday School had been constantly growing, it now appeared that larger quarters were necessary. Therefore, in 1912 the church building was extensively remodeled, being raised to provide a large Sunday School room and other facilities on the ground floor. In addition, the main auditorium was rearranged and redecorated. The debt incurred at this time was $5,000.00. In this same year, the Man's Bible Class, aided by the Carnegie Foundation, donated the pipe organ which was installed in the remodeled main auditorium.

The first issue of "Emmanuel's Messenger," which was a monthly publication containing news items and announcements concerning the church and its organizations, appeared February 1, 1914. From this beginning the publication evolved into the weekly bulletin used to show the order of service and congregational information.

In April, 1918, Rev. B. H. Pershing was installed. During his pastorate a campaign was begun to raise funds to pay off the debt of five thousand dollars which had been incurred in remodeling the church building. In about ten months between June 23, 1918 and April 20, 1919, the required amount was raised and again Grandmother Pfischner applied the match which started the burning of the mortgage.

On December 7, 1919, a special memorial service was held to honor those who had been in the armed services. The twentieth anniversary of the organization was celebrated the week of January 18 to 25, 1920 with nine special services and meetings, thus marking the completion of twenty years of service to the community and to the Master.

Rev. B. H. Pershing resigned from the pastorate on June 1, 1921. In November, 1921, Rev. H. F. Obenauf accepted the call and continued in the work until April, 1928. On September 20, 1924, the Young Women's Missionary Society was organized. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the congregation was celebrated from January 18 to 25, 1925. During this ministry the idea developed of securing ownership to the entire block surrounding the church so that, eventually, an enlarged and integrated physical plant could be built, the first step being the purchase of the Highland Avenue house in 1926.

Although much of the fourth decade of the Emmanuel's life was clouded by the economic depression, perhaps the greatest single event of its life up to that time occurred in the beginning of the decade and consisted of the organization of the Bethlehem congregation. The part played by Emmanuel indicates that the congregation had come of age and could successfully handle its own affairs in addition to helping to found the new congregation by releasing 55 members, of whom

3 were councilmen and 7 were Sunday School teachers, to form the nucleus of the new church. Following the dedication of the Bethlehem Chapel on August 10, 1930, the Bethlehem congregation was formally organized on September 14, 1930 with Rev. W. B. Claney, Jr., the son of Emmanuel's Rev. W. Claney, as first pastor.

In March, 1931, the choir was robed, the robes being furnished by the Sunshine Bible Class. The thirty-fifth anniversary of the congregation was celebrated the week of January 20 to 27, 1935 with special services on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. During the St. Patrick's Day Flood of 1936, the doors of the church were thrown open to meet the needs of the flood sufferers. There were more than 1000 meals served. Men were given lodging in the church, while the women and children were taken to the homes of members of the congregation. In November, 1937, a new roof was put on the church building. On being duly posted for the period required by the previous cosntitution.

The desire of the congregation to secure ownership of the entire block surrounding the church was finally realized in December, 1940 when arrangements were closed for the purchase of the Morton property for $4250.00. In January, 1941, the Men's Booster Class installed a cloak room over the vestibule, thus providing more seating capacity in the main auditorium. In February, 1941, the Memorial Chimes Fund was started for the purpose of adding chimes to the pipe organ. The required funds were quickly obtained and on April 22, 1941 the chimes were dedicated. In September, 1942, the pews in the nave were changed to provide a center aisle.

In June, 1946, a study was begun to look into the possibility of rebuilding or remodeling the Church building to take the best advantage of the entire ground, now owned by the congregation. Mr. Arthur Steinmark, architect, who recommended that the present building be remodeled since it was sound, was commissioned to prepare tentative plans on June 3, 1947. These plans contemplated the building of a new church entrance, the extension of the building to the alley behind the church, the building of a Sunday School building on the site of the parsonage, and the remodeling of the house next to the parsonage for the new parsonage. A continuing drive was started to build up a fund so that these plans could be realized in the near future.

Early in 1947 the new electric console for the pipe organ was installed, largely paid for by the $2450.00 bequest made to the church by Marjorie Keil Benton as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Keil.

In 1949, Rev. W. B. Claney, after serving almost twenty-one years at Emmanuel and approximately forty-one years in the ministry, decided to retire. He preached his final sermon on July 14, and formally left the pastorate on August 1, being made Pastor Emeritus.

The congregation celebrated its fiftieth anniversary the week of January 15, 1950. Services were held each night during the week with the following speakers taking part: Rev. Walter D. Guss, Rev. Carl Maier, Rev. F. L. Gibbs, D. D., Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., John D. McIntyre, Attorney-at-Law, Rev. A. W. Stremel, D. D., Rev. William B. Claney, Jr., Rev. W. B. Claney, Sr., and John T. Braughler, Pastor-Elect.

Seminarian John T Braughler accepted the call to become pastor of Emmanuel on January 1, 1950. He was installed July 16, 1950. With the energetic leadership provided by the new young pastor the need for a larger building became a necessity. The members of the congregation met to "breakground" for an Educational Unit on March 16, 1942. Less than a year later, January 4-6, 1953, the $65,000 Educational unit was dedicated.

In 1953 Mrs. James Shuker and Miss Tillie Seel received pins for teaching Sunday School fifty years. During the pastorate of Rev. Braughler a Three-hour Good Friday Service was started and the young peoples program was revived. In the Spring of 1954 the three Missionary organiations merged into one, the Ada B. Claney Missionary Society.

On May 9, 1954, Pastor Braughler resigned as pastor of Emmanuel effective June 15, 1954, to become a mission developer at Monroeville.

The Rev. Richard L. Sowers accepted a call to become the pastor of Emmanuel in November of 1954. He began his pastorate on Christmas Eve of 1954, and was installed by The Rev. G. Lawrence Himmelman, D. D., on January 9, 1955.

A new altar cross and flower vases were dedicated on January 23, 1955. During the month of January the congregation began using wine for the Holy Communion, instead of grape juice. In the fall of 1955 an Evangelism program was initiated and a 40% increase in attendance at the services was realized.

In March of 1956 a part-time secretary was added to the staff of the church. At present a new church office is under construction. The mortgage on the Educational Unit was retired on Easter of 1956. Several thousand dollars have been accumulated in the Building Fund and a planning council is at work studying the future needs of the congregation. It is hoped that the church building will be remodeled in the not-too-far-distant future.

The following pastors have served the church: Jerome M. Guss, 1900-1910; T. B. Uber, 1911-1913; M. R. Hamsher, 1913-1914; A. M. Himes, 1914-1917; B. H. Pershing, 1918-1921; J. F. Obenauf, 1921-1928; W. B. Claney, Sr., 1928-1949; John T. Braughler, 1950-1954; Richard L. Sowers, 1955 —.

Evans City — St. Peter's — 1849

(See Plate 13)

THE first Lutheran services in this community were held by Pastor John Esensee of the Middle Lancaster Parish in the year 1845, before the congregation was formally organized. The Rev. Herman Manz succeeded Pastor Esensee in the Middle Lancaster Parish, and took a deep interest in the Germans of Evansburg. He conducted a communion service here on December 26, 1848, with the Rev. Gottlieb Bassler assisting in administering the sacraments to twenty-five persons. The first baptism recorded was performed on December 12, 1848. The first confirmation was not held until April 27, 1850, when the pastor confirmed six persons.

The Germans of this community united and wrote the first constitution, in God's name, so that all would be done as He commands. This Constitution and By-Laws were adopted on February 5, 1849. The Rev. Herman Manz, the first pastor, served until 1853. This congregation was known as "The German Lutheran and Reformed St. Peter's Church of Evansburg".

A site was purchased on Pittsburgh Street (now called East Main St.), from Lewis Gansz, Sr., for one dollar, and a small frame building was erected at a cost of $300. This church was dedicated by Pastor Manz November 29, 1849, during a meeting of the Middle Lancaster Conference. Martin Zinkhorn was the builder. Today the building is still intact and is occupied as a family residence.

In the spring of 1853 the union between the Reformed and Lutherans was dissolved, and on May 23 of the same year, the Lutherans, fifteen families in all,

adopted a new constitution under the name, "The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's Church of Evansburg, Cranberry Township, Butler County, Pa." The Reformed congregation also became a distinct body, but both congregations continued to worship in the same building on alternate Sundays. At the time of Pastor Manz's death, December 16, 1853. The congregation was composed of sixty-five members.

Near this first church the congregation maintained a cemetery. According to tradition, the land of this cemetery was given to this first congregation by Thomas B. Evans, the founder of Evans City, with the instructions that it be used as a burial ground for the congregation "as long as the grass grew and the water flowed", and that it was never to be sold. Accordingly, this ground located between the present borough streets of Petroleum Alley and Hill Street has never been otherwise utilized and is occupied by the graves of our forefathers. At the time of the 100th Anniversary of the present congregation in 1949, several of the markers of these graves were still standing. The bodies were buried in rows, the oldest first, middle age next and then the children.

At the death of Pastor Manz, Pastor Gottleib Bassler was secured as a supply from December 1853 until November, 1854. He was a prominent religious leader, the first director of the Orphans' Home, in Zelienople, Pa. He also was one of the founders of the Pittsburgh Synod.

The next regular pastor was Pastor C. F. W. Brecht. His pastorate was the longest St. Peter's Church has known, extending from November 1, 1854 until April 1868. He served two other parishes, simultaneously, that of Middle Lancaster and Lancaster Township. According to one source of information, the Lutherans sold their interest in the first church building and cemetery to the Reformed congregation in 1868. However, in one of the record books of the church which has been preserved, we find that on January 11, 1868, the congregation voted to unite with the Reformed and to have one pastor. These two statements seem to conflict, and doubtless friction did exist between the two congregations. We also learn that in the following year, 1869, a lot was purchased on Water Street (now called South Washington Street) from Messrs. Wahl and Ash and a new church was erected. This second church was a frame building, dedicated in 1869 by Pastor Frederick Wilhelm. It was at this time that the property where the present church stands was bought from Peter Pfeifer and was used as a cemetery.

From May 16, 1872 to September 2, 1895 St. Peter's belonged to the Ohio Synod. The History of the Pittsburgh Synod by Burgess (1925) states that Pastor Brecht had withdrawn from the Pittsburgh Synod in 1860 to join the Joint Synod of Ohio; and that Pastor Wilhelm likewise persuaded the congregation to follow the same course. However, as for congregational records, there is no record wherein it is stated that the congregation belonged to any other synod prior to May 16, 1872, when it united with the Ohio Synod. It was during this period that the congregation introduced the German Hymn Books of the Joint Synod.

During the short pastorate of Rev. E. Mahlberg, a charter was secured February 21, 1875 and a new constitution adopted March 29 of the same year. This constitution contained such strict rules on the lodge question that many members withdrew. Short pastorates continued for some time. At the same time children of the original members had adopted the English language in their secular life and they desired to have the English language introduced into the church services. When their pleas were not granted, some of the younger members withdrew and organized "Grace English Evangelical Lutheran Church" on January 26, 1884. Rev. H. W. Kropp, pastor of St. Peter's also served Grace Church. This set-up continued until January 24, 1886 when Grace Church dissolved and re-united with the mother

congregation during the pastorate of Rev. Lewis Wagner. At this time, the congregation agreed to permit two English services a month. As time went on, English services slightly increased and German services decreased to one service a month. February 6, 1916, the German services were discontinued by unanimous vote.

During the pastorate of Rev. P. J. C. Glatzert the congregation withdrew from the Joint Synod of Ohio on September 2, 1895 and united with the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Council. It was under this pastorate that the present Gothic House of Worship was erected. It was dedicated June 5, 1898, erected at a cost of $11,269.65. With gifts of memorial windows, furnishings, its actual worth was between $15,000 - $20,000. Its construction is of buff brick and stone with an imposing tower of 115 feet. The old church building was sold to W. C. Laderer and the lot sold to S. H. Hill in 1904. The present building sits on the corner of Harrison and Van Buren Streets. Its present site was formerly the cemetery lot but was condemned by the borough council in 1891. Before the erection of the building the bodies were removed to the Evans City Cemetery. Various anniversaries, such as the Sixty-fifth, Seventy-fifth, Ninetieth, and the One Hundredth, were fittingly observed in the years, 1914, 1924, 1939, and 1949. Appropriate histories were written each year. The One Hundredth was put in booklet form entitled, "After One Hundred Years".

In the beginning of the second decade of the Twentieth Century, 1911, St. Peter's introduced the Duplex-Envelope System with notable increases in offerings. Physical improvements occurred frequently. The chancel was rebuilt, a new choir stall accompanied the installation of a new Worsching Pipe Organ. The organ was installed for $2300, dedicated July 19, 1914. The oil drilling excitement was a common thing in Evans City and two wells, one on the parsonage lot, another on the church lot were drilled but they soon lost their force, but not before $1000 was deposited in the church treasury. However, the following year the church was struck by lightning, damaging both the church and the organ: loss amounted to $3000. Four years later the first parsonage was sold for $3500 and the Clyde Beam property on 302 Van Buren Street was purchased for $8000 which is the present parsonage. With the growth of the congregation a Church School addition was made to the church and dedicated May 17, 1925, the cost being $10,000. This church like every other church was hard hit during the depression years. All salaries were reduced in 1931. The year 1933 was described as the worst year financially of all the years. This situation was reflected in the fact that while the parsonage was vacant the garage was rented for $2.00 per month.

In the immediate years that followed adult instruction was required for adults never belonging to any church and definite grades were required for children to attain 70% in order to be confirmed. The "Penny-A-Meal" method of gathering funds proved quite successful and was used in purchasing carpet and the redecorating of the church.

When the Second World War came ninety-two members entered the military service, two making the supreme sacrifice: Robert Edwin Muir and Andrew Schafer Mahan. In 1943 the congregation underwent extensive property improvements, excavating the basement, providing for additional class rooms and a social room. Later in 1948 it was decided to enlarge and modernize the kitchen. The cost of both projects in actual cash was $11,000 but its value was as high as $25,000. Much of the material was donated and nearly all the work was done by volunteer labor. Pastor Shaulis completed his ministry in the spring of 1951 when he resigned and became full time director of Camp Lutherlyn.

In 1953 the Sunday School availed itself of the evaluation program offered

by the Parish and Church School Board of the U.L.C.A. The school encourages the young people to attend Camp Lutherlyn and Summer Assembly at Thiel College by providing for one half of their expense at camp. St. Peter's was one of the thirteen congregations participating in the initial use of the Sector Program for Stewardship in the Pittsburgh Synod in 1955. Men of the congregation attend the Laymen's Movement for Stewardship yearly at Thiel. Four men are members of the Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship of the U.L.C.A. Plans have been made to energize the youth work through the use of Caravan Teams as provided by the Luther League of America in 1956.

Physical improvements were made in 1951 consisting of re-decorating and insulating the church nave and portions of the Sunday School rooms at a cost of $3545. A need was felt for replacing the aging pipe organ. The initial step was made in 1952 when the officers and teachers of the Sunday School set up an Organ Fund (offering of the fifth Sunday of months of five Sundays). At the annual meeting in 1954 an Organ Committee was appointed. Later a Chancel Committee was appointed by council. The result was that a new Schantz Pipe Organ was purchased for $12,425. "Deagan Chimes" were donated by Christine B. Cashdollar. The chancel was renovated (consisting of a communion rail, new choir loft, enlarged chancel, new lectern and pulpit) and the dedication service for organ and renovations were held June 26, 1955. The total cost of the improvement and organ was $18,991.

St. Peter's growth in benevolent giving has continued through the years. Thought and care of its pastor too have been manifested in respect to salary. A new Plymouth car in 1953 was presented to Pastor Hays as a gift from the Sunday School and congregation.

In 107 years of the life of the congregation, St. Peter's has provided five men for the ministry: Pastors Henry Voegele, Dr. William F. Pfeifer, Sr., George L. Ulrich, George Duane Stoll, and William Henry Marburger.

The pastors having served through the life of the congregation were: Herman Manz, 1898-1853; Gottleib Bassler (supply), 1853-1854; C. F. W. Brecht, 1854-1868; Frederick Wilhelm, 1868-1873; E. Mahlberg, 1874-1875; A. C. Sylla, 1875-1876; W. L. Busch, 1877-1881; W. H. Kropp, 1881-1885; Lewis Wagner, 1886-1895; P. J. C. Glatzert, 1895-1900; C. J. Streich, 1901-1907; Carl E. Zeigelbrier, 1907-1909; R. W. Yeany, 1910-1918; W. C. Beck, 1919-1921; Charles W. Barnett, 1922-1933; George J. Baisler, 1934-1942; Samuel S. Shaulis, 1942-1951; C. Thornton Hays, 1951 —.

Farrell Grace 1902

PASTORS Myers and Oberly made a preliminary canvass of this community in 1901. The congregation was organized by G. S. Seaman January 1, 1902. A temporary chapel was built; a church bell was secured from Pastor I. O. Baker of Erie. The first regular pastor, J. A. Frischkorn, began his work October 12, 1902.

The lot and the temporary chapel were sold in 1903, and a good corner lot was secured. Learning that a church in Pittsburgh was for sale, the congregation bought it and rebuilt it in Farrell. This was done at a cost of $2,400 with much labor donated. The cornerstone was laid August 23, 1903 and the church dedicated by Pastor Frischkorn October 18, 1903.

The congregation was then an English mission of the Pittsburgh Synod receiving an annual appropriation of $500. Assistance was continued until May 1, 1921, when the church assumed self-support with an enrollment of 228 members. For the first ten years English alone was used in the services. Then Pastor Peter Riffer began to hold afternoon services in German for the benefit of the Siebenburger Saxons of the community. These services were so much appreciated that scores of Saxons united with Grace Church. As their numbers increased more German services were required until the morning service was given to the Saxons and the evening service to the English. When this was done a number of members left the church in protest.

The Pittsburgh Synod sent a committee consisting of Rev. F. E. Stough, Rev. G. W. Critchlow, and Dr. Ernst Tappert to settle the difficulty in the congregation. They effected a preliminary organization of St. John's Church July 2, 1923.

Before Pastor Frischkorn closed his second ministry at Grace he sold to the congregation his home adjacent to the church property. In this way the congregation came in possession of a parsonage.

At the arrival of Rev. Clemens Schirmer in 1943 the congregation still owed $3,000 on the parsonage. This pledged amount was quickly paid off, and the complete renovation of the church was begun in 1945, and finished for Christmas Eve services in the same year. The total cost of this work was $8,000.

On May 9, 1946 the church building was completely destroyed by fire. On the same evening, the church council met and agreed unanimously to call a congregational meeting and propose to erect a new church edifice. The congregation voted unanimously to build a greater and better Grace Church. A financial campaign was conducted during the fall of 1946. A loan of $20,800 was secured from the Board of American Missions.

While the new church was being built the congregation worshipped in the auditorium of Farrell Junior High School and in the Odd Fellows Hall on Fruit Avenue. The new church was dedicated September 12, 1948. It is valued at $60,000.

The following pastors have served this church: J. A. Frischkorn, 1902-1904; H. F. Obenauf, 1905-1908; G. J. Diener, 1910-1911; Peter Riffer (supply), 1912-1913; J. J. Neudoerffer, 1913-1916; H. F. Gruhn, 1916-1924; A. H. Hoerbe, 1924-1925; P. E. Porath, 1925-1926; E. A. Giesel, 1926-1928; John A. Frischkorn (second term), 1928-1943; C. W. Schirmer, 1943 —.

Farrell St. Paul's 1938

(See Plate 13)

ABOUT 1921 the Mission Board of the Pittsburgh Synod became interested in the Siebenburger Saxons who had come to this country in the early part of the twentieth century. By 1925 the work among Saxons had become a very important phase of the program of the Mission Board.

The history of St. Paul's begins with that of another Lutheran congregation, Grace of Farrell. This congregation was organized on January 1, 1902. Rev. J. W. Myers supplied the church until Rev. J. A. Frischkorn was called as a regular pastor in 1902.

In April, 1903 a church building, located at Pittsburgh, was purchased. It was dismantled, packed and shipped to Farrell and erected on the newly purchased lots at the corner of Union Street and Fruit Avenue, the present location of Grace. The cost of this operation was $6,400.

By 1913 the Saxon people were attending in large numbers, the German services being the attraction. With the constant coming of new arrivals from Europe, the Transylvanians soon out numbered the English group and were demanding not only equal rights but superior rights. However, the English consented to giving the German group the morning service. Demands by the German group increased. They soon demanded a completely separate Sunday School. Friction also existed with the catechetical class.

Dr. Burgess attended a congregational meeting in 1923 hoping to bring some harmony to the group. The German group submitted six specific demands, most of which were accepted. The meeting closed on a note of harmony, but even Dr. Burgess did not expect the harmony to continue. Soon the differences again appeared. The President of Synod appointed a committee made up of Rev. F. E. Stough, Rev. G. W. Critchlow, and Rev. Ernst A. Tappert to meet with the congregation.

This committee met with the Transylvanian group in the Congregational Church of the community on July 2, 1923. At this meeting St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed. Soon thereafter a building site was sought and two lots were purchased on the east side of Fruit Avenue for $2,750.

In September 1923 President Burgess received a copy of the constitution of St. John's and a request for admission into the Synod. This was granted. From the outset this was a self-sustaining congregation of about 175 members.

In spite of the fact that a Siebenburger Saxon church had been organized dissension still remained. With the organization of St. John's a division had been caused with those who desired to remain at Grace.

Pastor Deutchlander labored conscientiously in the new parish and steady growth was recorded in both Sunday School and church. Services were held in the Congregational Church at first, then in the Hungarian Presbyterian Church, and finally at the Saxonheim.

Pastor Deutchlander resigned from St. John's hoping that his departure would help heal the division. The congregation was without a regular pastor until 1927 when Rev. Fritz Grossman accepted the call. In 1927 the cornerstone of a two-storied church was built at a cost of $34,000. In 1931 Pastor Bagger, then president of synod met with Pastor Grossman and the council to discuss the critical financial situation of the congregation. The way in which the building project had been handled was responsible for this difficulty There was talk of reuniting with Grace, but this was not looked upon favorably by people in both churches.

In 1932 the church became a mission congregation. The thirties were trying years for many of the immigrants who had recently come to America. Farrell in particular felt the effects of the depression. By the end of 1932 the debt was $22,381. Except for $6,500 all this was interest bearing. Only $555 could be paid on the principal in that year.

By 1938 conditions were so bad that the property was sold by court order and the congregation of St. John's was ordered abandoned. The Mission Board of the Synod and the United Lutheran church lost more than $6,000 in the transaction. The congregation worshipped in the building that had been sold, paying $50 a month rent.

On December 5, 1938 the court granted a charter to the new St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Farrell. Pastor Weidhaas resigned on December 4, 1938 and accepted a call to the new St. Paul's congregation on December 11. St. Paul's asked for admission to the Pittsburgh Synod in 1939, but they were not granted that petition for a year, because they repudiated the debt obligation which they had to the synod as St. John's congregation. In 1940, however, they were admitted to the Synod.

Rev. Hohnsbein resigned from St. Paul's December 31, 1942. For two and a half years the congregation was without a pastor, yet it remained a functioning organization. In 1945 Rev. Arthur H. Blank came to St. Paul's. At the formal installation service the $2,500 owing to the Mission Board of the Synod was repaid. Pastor Blank concluded his pastorate in 1950.

In 1953 Mr. Donald Power took on the work of the pastorate, while pursuing his studies at Thiel College. In 1956 Mr. Power was ordained by the Synod.

The pastors who have served this congregation are: (As St. John's) Johann Deutschlander, 1923-1926; Fritz Grossman, 1927-1931; Walher E. Weidhass, 1931-1938; (As St. Paul's) Walther E. Weidhaas, 1938-1939; Hans Hohnsbein, 1940-1942; Supplies, 1943-1945; Arthur H. Blank, 1945-1950; Hans B. Jentsch, 1951-1953; Donald B. Power, 1953-1958.

Ford City — St. John's — 1888

FORD CITY was founded by Captain John B. Ford who inspected the ground in 1888 and selected it as the site of a large manufacturing plant. Among the workmen employed in this glass plant were a number of Germans who were organized into a congregation of 58 members in the winter of 1889-1890. Their first services were held in an unfinished house in which rough planks served as pews and a shoe box served as a pulpit. A well furnished hall was then placed at their disposal by Captain Ford.

In 1890 they were constituted a mission of the Pittsburgh Synod and placed under the care of Pastor A. E. R. Collman. This pastor remained but a few months. He was succeeded by Pastor Robert Barner July, 1891. Pastor Barner effected a complete reorganization of the congregation. Captain Ford then donated two lots on which a frame church was built for $5,000. This church was dedicated by Pastor Barner July 24, 1892. Dedicatory addresses were made in both German and English.

The business depression of 1893 led to the removal of many members, but returning prosperity brought the church to self-support in 1896. After the resignation of Pastor Barner in 1904, the membership scattered because of the absence of pastoral care. It was united with Freeport as a mission parish in 1907 and reached self-

support again in 1910. A parsonage was secured, but the pastor has resided in New Kensington for several years. An English Sunday School was organized by Pastor F. J. Fuerst in 1922. Services then alternated between German and English.

The present church building was dedicated May 13, 1928 by Pastor Fuerst at a cost of $37,000. When Pastor Fuerst resigned because of ill health, work was taken over by John F. Kindsvatter who was assigned as student pastor by Dr. Bagger. Pastor Kindsvatter was called as pastor September 1, 1935. By this time all German services had been dropped and many of the young people who had left because of the language problem returned to the congregation.

During the pastorate of Rev. Scholl the remaining debt was paid. There was also a steady growth in membership. Pastor Earl Walker succeeded Pastor Scholl in 1947. He established the Household Fund and organized a strong Missionary Society under the leadership of Mrs. Walker who became the first president.

The following pastors have served this church: Martin Gaudian, 1889-1890; A. E. R. Collman, 1890-1891; Robert Barner, 1891-1904; H. P. Hansen, 1907-1910; John Burgdorf, 1910-1919; Emil Jestinsky, 1919-1922; F. J. Fuerst, 1922-1935; John F. Kindsvatter, 1935-1939; Paul Scholl, 1939-1947; Earl S. Walker, 1947-1952; F. H. Daubenspeck, 1952 —.

Forest Hills — Hope — 1950

THE congregation of Hope United at Forest Hills, was organized on November 19, 1950 by the first pastor, the Rev. Frederick Stueber, under the auspices of the Board of American Missions of the U.L.C.A. and the Pittsburgh Synod. The charter membership was 67. Dr. Donald Houser, then Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, conducted the Organization Service, while the sermon was preached by Dr. Robert Stackel, then Pastor of First English Lutheran Church, Downtown Pittsburgh.

The congregation met for nearly two years in the Women's Club Building in Forest Hills. Meanwhile many "firsts" took place. The first Sunday School, the first choir, the first Women's Missionary Society, the first council, the first Luther League, all came about as pastor and people kept molding a growing church for Forest Hills. The need for a church building became urgent, and during 1951 and early 1952 constant planning for the first church building took place. Then on September 7, 1952 the present church building was dedicated. It is the first unit of the total plant and will serve as the educational unit in the future. Dr. G. L. Himmelman, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, conducted the dedication, while Dr. G. Arthur Fry, Pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Northside Pittsburgh preached the sermon.

Pastor Stueber resigned in November, 1954 and the Rev. Alva A. Jordan was called, beginning his pastorate in January, 1955. Pastor Jordan resigned in April, 1956. The present Pastor, Paul H. Sampsell, Jr., was called, his pastorate starting June 1, 1956. The congregation has 152 confirmed members, 122 communing.

Forks (Bethel Township) Bethel 1846

THE first Lutheran services of this community were held in the home of Mathias Wolf, September 14, 1833, by Rev. G. A. Reichert. These services were continued for three years, usually on Saturdays, but no attempt was made to organize a congregation. When Rev. David Earhart became pastor of the Leechburg Parish in 1844, he began to hold services in a schoolhouse. After these services had continued for some time, a congregation of forty-nine members was organized, August 13, 1846. At a subsequent meeting it was decided to build a frame church, and Jacob Wolf, Samuel and Peter Wareham were selected as the building committee.

A committee on location secured an acre of ground from Samuel Mansfield and the purchase was approved by the congregation. The cornerstone of the church was laid May 6, 1847, and the church dedicated May 12, 1850, Rev. John B. Breckenridge delivering the chief address. A charter was obtained from the court of Armstrong County June 24, 1848. This charter gave the right to vote to male members only, but this objectionable feature was stricken out by an amendment December 3, 1894. A constitution was adopted April 17, 1848, which every member, received into the church for a number of years, was required to sign. On June 27, 1851, the custom of renting pews in order to raise the pastor's salary was adopted. On March 13, 1852, a church choir of eleven men was organized. Pastor Earhart preached his farewell sermon, April 1, 1859, leaving a congregation of 140 communicants.

From April 9, 1859, to April 1, 1867, the church was under the pastoral care of Rev. J. H. Wright. During the synodical controversy the prevailing sentiment of the congregation was favorable to the General Synod; and, although the other two churches of the parish voted to go into the General Council, Bethel Church took the following action: "In as much as a part of the Pittsburgh Synod united to form the General Council, the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church does not approve of said act, and will remain in the General Synod."

From 1868 to 1870 the church was supplied with such services as Rev. Michael Colver, Rev. John A. Earnest, and Rev. G. F. Ehrenfeld had time to give. The next regular pastor was Rev. J. B. Miller, who served them in connection with Hileman's and Rupp's. During the pastorate of Rev. G. W. Leisher a movement was started for the erection of a new church. The cornerstone was laid June 25, 1878, and the church was dedicated September 8, 1879, Pastors S. B. Barnitz, G. F. Schaeffer, A. S. Miller, and Francis T. Hoover assisted Pastor Leisher on this occasion. The cost was $2,217, but considerable trouble was found in raising the money.

In the summer of 1901 extensive repairs were made to the building, in which the women of Bethel had the chief part. In 1894 several acres of ground were bought from the heirs of Samuel Mansfield; and the cemetery was then enlarged and laid out after an approved plan. Bethel Church was connected with Rupp's and Hileman's in Kittanning Parish from 1870 to 1898, when it was made a part of Rockville Parish. For several years it was served in connection with Hyde Park. Since the year following the merger convention of the Pittsburgh Synod, it has been connected with the Zion and St. Paul's churches of Forks Parish. For a while the congregation owned a parsonage, but this was sold in 1917. In 1950 the congregation remodeled the interior of their church, and added two rooms for the use of the Church School. A one manual reed organ with electric blower was purchased in 1952.

The following is a list of the pastors: David Earhart, 1846-1859; J. H. Wright, 1859-1867; Supplies, 1867-1870; J. B. Miller, 1870-1871; A. S. Miller, 1872-1877;

G. W. Leisher, 1877-1885; J. W. Tressler, 1886-1899; J. E. F. Hassinger, 1899-1903; E. F. Dickey, 1903-1911; Elmer Kahl, 1912-1913; J. F. Booher, 1914-1918; Supplies, 1918-1920; Donald K. Fetterly, 1920-1925; G. J. Baisler, 1925-1933; Frank H. Miller, 1934-1937; Frederick Stueber, 1938-1950; Guy M. Wilson, 1951-1958.

Forks (Park Township) St. Paul's 1871

THIS church, locally known as Highfield's, was organized by Rev. Jonathan Sarver in 1871. A small frame church, 32 x 40, was built in the summer of that year and dedicated by Pastor Sarver on October 27, 1871, Dr. W. A. Passavant preaching the sermon. The cost of this church was $1,800. The land on which it was built, together with that secured for burial purposes, was obtained in four conveyances: one-half acre from Henry B. Klingensmith and wife, February 18, 1876; 113 perches from David E. Shutt and wife, June 23, 1886; one-half acre from A. J. Riggle and wife, July 31, 1886; 2774 square feet from A. W. Artman and wife, August 16, 1897.

Pastor Sarver served the congregation regularly in connection with Leechburg Parish from the time of its organization to March 1, 1883. His successor in the Leechburg Parish, Rev. William J. Miller, rendered similar services from July 29, 1883 to August 1, 1887, when the congregation accepted the services of Rev. Robert G. Rosenbaum of Crooked Creek Parish. By this time the membership had increased to more than one hundred. The church was connected with Crooked Creek Parish until 1902, when it was made a part of the Forks Parish. After undergoing extensives repairs in the summer of 1908 the church was formally rededicated, September 20, 1908.

On April 26, 1949 a new parish house for St. Paul's was dedicated. In 1950 a Wurlitzer electronic organ was purchased.

Pastors who have served this congregation are: Jonathan Sarver, 1871-1883; W. J. Miller, 1883-1887; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1887-1892; D. D. Miller, 1892-1901; W. A. Billheimer, 1902-1903; George J. Diener, 1903-1907; J. H. Young, 1908-1910; Jacob Ash, 1911-1916; D. K. Fetterly, 1918-1925; G. J. Baisler, 1925-1933; Frank H. Miller, 1934-1937; Frederick Stueber, 1938-1950; Guy M. Wilson, 1951-1958.

Forks (Gilpin Township) Zion 1817

THIS church is located in that section of the country enclosed by the forks the Allegheny and Kiskiminetas rivers, and for that reason is commonly called the Forks Church. Many of the pioneers of this region were Germans from Westmoreland County, who took up their lands at the beginning of the century. John Hill came to this community in 1812, and his house and barn furnished the the first meeting places for his Lutheran neighbors. While Pastor John M. Steck was deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of these people, it is not believed that he made any attempt to effect an organization here, for the reason that the children of John Hill were baptized in the Klingensmith Church as late as 1816.

The Rev. John Adam Mohler preached at Hill's from 1817 to 1823 and organized the congregation at the beginning of his pastorate. This pastor gave too much attention to his singing schools, and eventually lost the confidence of his people. The dates given by Rev. David Earhart are incorrect, as the records of the Ohio Synod prove. The Forks company was probably one of the four "congregations" which petitioned the Ministerium of Pennsylvania for a pastor in 1817.

When Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichert took charge of the congregation in 1824, he found a satisfactory organization. It was his custom to preach every two or three years, when large classes of adults and children would be confirmed. Few of his confirmands were younger than fourteen, and his methods of teaching were always thorough. The first class of which we have any record was confirmed, April 11, 1830. Communion services were held regularly once a year.

After the resignation of Pastor Reichert it appears that Pastor Michael J. Steck served the congregation for some time during the years 1837 and 1838. The Hill family is still in possession of the little hammer, which he carried in his saddle bag for the purpose of cleaning the hoofs of his horse while travelling over the winter roads.

Rev. John Herman Bernheim served the congregation, 1838-1844, and opened the first church record of Zion July 29, 1838, with the baptism of Joseph Klingensmith. No family name is more widely represented among the Lutheran families of the synod than that of Klingensmith.

Pastor Bernheim persuaded the congregation to build their first church in 1842. The ground was secured from John Turney. The cornerstone was laid May 16, and the church dedicated September 18, 1842. A new constitution was adopted August 9, 1842; but a charter was not secured until 1850. When Pastor Bernheim resigned in 1844, the congregation was divided into German and English parts, Pastor Henry Esensee serving the Germans, and Pastor David Earhart the English. Both pastors remained until 1851. When Pastor Esensee was deposed and Pastor Earhart resigned. Pastor G. F. Ehrenfeld ministered in both German and English from 1851 to 1864 with Pastor G. A. Reichert assisting in the German services from 1856 to 1859. Even as late as 1860 a majority of the congregation preferred the German language. The frame church of 1842 served as a place of worship for nearly fifty years. The cornerstone of the second church was laid in 1890, and dedicated by Pastor J. K. Melhorn sometime in 1891. This church was destroyed by fire February 5, 1905, and a better building erected in its place, at a cost of $5,000. Ground was donated by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Schaffer in 1903, on which a parsonage was built in 1905. In January 3, 1882, five acres of ground were bought from Philip Turney and added to the cemetery. Within this cemetery lie the bodies of Pastors George F. Ehrenfeld, Henry Essensee, and J. G. Blyholder. The last named had not yet been ordained.

Zion's church suffered severly during the synodical controversy, and the people of the community do not like to speak of it. A majority favored the General Council, but some of the strongest families withdrew and united with Hebron Church of Leechburg because of it. The parish relations of Zion have been many and varied. She has belonged to the Leechburg, Crooked Creek, and Freeport Parishes. For a long time Zion and St. Paul's formed the Forks Parish, to which Bethel was added after the synodical merger in 1920. On May 27, 1928, the social rooms built under the church, were dedicated. An electronic organ was purchased in 1952, a set of chimes in 1953, and an amplifier in 1954.

The pastors served in the following order: J. A. Mohler, 1817-1823; K. M. Zeilfels, 1824-1825; G. A. Reichert, 1825-1837; M. J. Steck, 1837-1838; J. H. Bernheim, 1838-1844; Henry Esensee (German) 1855-1859; L. M. Kuhns, 1865; Jonathan Sarver, 1866-1868; Supplies, 1868-1873; Philip Doerr, 1873-1877; W. A. C. Mueller, 1878-1881; Jonathan Sarver (second term), 1881-1883; W. J. Miller, 1883-1889; J. K. Melhorn, 1889-1895; W. O. Laub, 1896-1901; W. A. Billheimer, 1901-1903; G. J. Diener, 1903-1907; J. H. Young, 1908-1910; Jacob Ash, 1911-1916; D. K. Fetterly, 1918-1925; G. J. Baisler, 1925-1933; Frank H. Miller, 1934-1937; Frederick Stueber, 1938-1950; Guy M. Wilson, 1951-1958.

Franklin Grace 1852

GRACE Lutheran Church or Friedens Lutheran Church, as it was first called, was organized as a German congregation in 1852 with a membership of 32 persons. The Rev. Henry Weicksel was in charge of the organization. The new congregation, most of whom came from a nearby rural mission called the Highland Church, immediately bought a lot on Buffalo St. for $150 where the cornerstone of a frame church was laid June 3, 1852. Because of lack of funds and the illness of the pastor, progress on the building lagged and it was not completed until December 8, 1861 when it was dedicated by Pastor Isaac Brenneman.

In November, 1867, the Rev. J. M. Long of Ohio visited Friedens Church at the invitation of the congregation, and in January, 1868 he became pastor of Franklin, New Lebanon, and Dempseytown. One of Pastor Long's first actions was to reorganize the church as an English congregation of 29 members. In 1869 services were held in the Franklin Church every Sunday for the first time and a Sunday School was begun with an enrollment of 40 scholars.

In October, 1885, under the pastorship of Rev. H. J. G. Bartholomew, the congregation agreed to sell their church building to the Baptists for $1000, and to purchase the lot at the corner of Buffalo and 11th Sts. for $900. Here the cornerstone of the second church was laid July 25, 1886 and the building dedicated January 9, 1887. It was built of frame, 48 x 74, at a cost of $7000. During this pastorate the mission became self sustaining.

During the pastorate of Rev. W. R. Swickard, 1897-1901, extensive improvements were made on the church building. The organ was purchased and placed in the alcove constructed for it. That and other work done cost a total of $2500. The building was rededicated by Pastor Swickard November 6, 1898.

In 1903 Rev. W. G. D. Hudson became the pastor of Grace Church, and he remained its pastor until his death in June, 1920. Pastor Hudson, a son of our mission field in India, brought a new sense of stewardship to the congregation and his years of faithful service here endeared him greatly to the hearts of the people.

In 1923, under the leadership of Pastor M. R. Kunkelman, a parsonage was purchased on Buffalo St. for $7,000 and the church was renovated. In the five years of his pastorate 160 adults were received into the membership of the church, and when he was called to another charge there were 252 confirmed members and the Sunday School had an enrollment of 237.

In 1931, after a long vacancy, the congregation called Rev. Edward K. Rogers to be its pastor. He has the distinction of being the only pastor to be married during his pastorate of Grace Church. Under his pastorate a Daily Vacation Bible School was established and advancements were made in Christian stewardship. He also led the congregation in celebrating its Eightieth Anniversary.

During the two year pastorate of Rev. James R. Beamer the debt against the parsonage was liquidated and the mortgage against the church was burned.

During the pastorate of Rev. Samuel Gross the 90th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church in Franklin was celebrated June 28 and 29, 1942. In December, 1943 the parsonage at 1034 Buffalo St. was sold and the house at 1123 Buffalo St. was purchased.

In July 1947 Rev. Raymond Stumpf became pastor of the congregation. During this pastorate a solicitation of the members increased the New Church Building Fund which had been established some years before, from some $11,000 to over $25,000. In September, 1952 the 100th Anniversary of the congregation was celebrated with fitting services.

In October, 1954, Rev. Paul E. Fauth became pastor. In February, 1955, a Building Fund Campaign was carried out under the direction of the Lutheran Laymen's Movement, in which some $47,000 in cash and pledges was raised towards the new church. In the summer of the same year two lots were purchased at the corner of 8th and Elk Sts. for the site of the proposed new church. The cost of the lots was $20,000. In January, 1956 the preliminary plans for the new church were approved by the congregation, the estimated cost of be $250,000.

In May of 1958 the basement sanctuary and the educational unit of the new church were dedicated.

The complete list of pastors is: Henry Weicksel, 1825-1855; J. A. Nuner, 1855-1860; Isaac Brenneman, 1860-1863; W. F. Ulery, 1863-1865; Vacant, 1865-1868; J. M. Long, 1868-1873; Vacant, 1873-1874; S. W. Kuhns, 1875-1881; F. W. Kohler, 1881-1884; H. J. G. Bartholomew, 1884-1892; H. J. H. Lemke, 1892-1896; W. R. Swickard, 1897-1901; W. G. D. Hudson, 1902-1920; M. R. Kunkelman, 1920-1925; James Ramsey, 1925-1930; E. K. Rogers, 1931-1936; James Beamer, 1936-1938; Samuel Gross, 1939-1947; Raymond N. Stumpf, 1947-1954; Paul E. Fauth, 1954 —.

Freedom — House of Mercy — 1878

(See Plate 14)

WHEN Dr. Passavant revived Rehoboth Church, it was necessary for him in journeying to and from Baden to pass through this community. Impressed by the spiritual needs of the people, he offered his services as a minister and was cordially welcomed. After his first service the people urged him to preach for them regularly. The first service was held in the open air near the site of the present church. The cornerstone of a frame church was laid by Dr. Passavant in October, 1878, and the building was dedicated by his son, August 28, 1881. Rev. W. A. Passavant, Jr., organized a congregation of 24 members on the day of dedication.

Their church is described in the synodical record as a "neat Gothic edifice, with open roof and vestibule, the dimensions being fifty feet in length and thirty-two feet in breadth, a model of cheapness, neatness and convenience." The record of baptisms for this church begins with 1879, but that of communions not until 1888.

Adjusting himself to the wishes of the people in matters liturgical, he taught them such a pure gospel that they naturally developed into good Lutherans. Within twelve years the church developed a membership of 45; then came the establishment of the large railroad yards at Conway, and the organization of Trinity Church of Vicary, November 8, 1891. This took many members from Crows Run, and the loss was deeply felt. The pastors were the same as those of Rehoboth. Within a few years, however, the membership built up and became stronger than before.

Certain improvements have been made in the original plant. More recently, in 1939, a basement was excavated and a new hot air oil heating system installed.

In 1952, an Estey electric organ was installed providing more churchly accompaniment for the services. The present membership consists of 268 baptized members, 168 confirmed members, and 50 communing members as of June 1, 1956.

The House of Mercy has been served by the following ministers: W. A. Passavant, D. D., 1876-1879; W. A. Passavant, Jr., 1879-1885; R. M. Smith, 1887-1907; Ludwig Beisecker, 1907-1911; W. A. Zundel, 1912-1916; W. E. Arnholt, 1916-1924; J. B. Lambert, 1924-1929; Paul N. Schnur, 1929-1938; E. Victor Roland, 1938-1956; Roger L. Mauchline, 1956 —.

Freedom St. John's 1840

FREEDOM was founded by the boat-building firm of Philips and Graham, in 1832. The first houses were regarded as temporary shelters for the boat builders, and were soon replaced by better homes. Among the first workmen were a number of Germans, who were ministered to by Pastor Jacob Hoelsche of the Ohio Synod. The old record shows that he began to baptize children here February 9, 1840, and continued to preach for the people until May 19, 1844. The character of the organization effected by this pastor cannot be determined, but the record proves that there was an "Evang. Luth. Geminde" in Freedom August 23, 1840, and this may be accepted as the birthday of St. John's.

The next pastor was a member of the German Reformed Church, Rev. E. E. Winter, who wrote the words "Und Reformierte" into the title page of the old record. Whether this addition to the name meant a reorganization of the Lutheran congregation of Pastor Hoelsche or the personal wishes of the Reformed pastor cannot be determined. The third pastor was another Lutheran, Rev. H. C. Kaehler.

The first services were held in a schoolhouse on the corner of Virtue and Betz streets, and their frame church was not dedicated by Pastor Kaehler until 1852. At that time the congregation numbered 20 members, but these were increased to 67 in 1861. No communion records are preserved earlier than 1868. On March 26, 1853, the congregation formally adopted a constitution with the title, "Constitution of the United German Evangelical Lutheran Reformed Church of Freedom, Beaver, Co., Pa."

The Rev. Casper Braun of Beaver preached occasionally for them, but was never their pastor. From 1862 to 1870 they were served by pastors not connected with the Pittsburgh Synod, and then, beginning with Pastor Peter Born, an unbroken line of Pittsburgh Synod pastors has been preserved. When the young people began to demand English services, pastors of the Missouri Synod took advantage of the confusion and organized Trinity German Church. From 1870 to 1902 St. John's was served in connection with Rochester and Monaca; from 1902 to 1907 it was shifted from one parish to another; since 1907 it has been connected with Rehoboth and Crows Run.

The frame church of 1852, although renovated in 1904, proved inadequate, and the present brick church was built at a cost of $15,263. The cornerstone was laid May 24, 1914, and the church dedicated by Pastor W. A. Zundel October 18, 1914. The constitution recommended by the General Council was adopted in 1916, and the congregation admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod during the same year. A parsonage was built during the pastorate of the Rev. Ludwig Biesecker at a cost of $3,800. In the Fall of 1926, a new pipe organ was installed at a cost of $5,000. During the pastorate of Rev. Paul N. Schnur, a change in Parish relations was effected and St. John's and the House of Mercy, Crows Run, became the Freedom Parish, with Rehoboth being joined to another parish of the Pittsburgh Synod. This made possible both a morning and evening service every Sunday and a fuller pastoral care.

With the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the church in 1940 many improvements were initiated, the major one being the installation of Interior Chimes for the organ. Since then, many necessary repairs have been made and new gas furnaces have been installed in both the church and parsonage. Tile floors in the basement, new kitchen equipment, new ceiling in basement and a complete paint job comprised some of the improvements made in the years, 1954 and 1955.

The membership as of January 1, 1956 was: baptized, 635; confirmed, 432; communing, 185.

The pastors served in the following order: Jacob Hoelsche, 1840-1844; E. F. Winter (Reformed), 1845-1851; H. C. Kaehler, 1851-1861; C. Scheel, 1861-1865; supplies, 1865-1868; C. A. Frank, 1868-1870; Peter Born, 1870-1876; F. C. E. Lemcke, 1877-1901; Paul Kummer, 1903-1905; R. M. Smith (English), 1903-1907; J. L. Fischer (supply), 1907; Ludwig Beisecker, 1907-1911; W. A. Zundel, 1912-1916; W. E. Arnholt, 1916-1924; J. B. Lambert, 1924-1929; Paul N. Schnur, 1929-1938; E. Victor Roland, 1938-1956; Roger L. Mauchline, 1956 —.

Freeport — Trinity — 1800

(See Plate 14)

FREEPORT is one of the oldest towns in Armstrong County, having been laid out as Toddstown by David and William Todd in 1796. Slow in its first growth, it developed rapidly as a town after the construction of the Pennsylvania canal in 1828.

The Blue Slate Congregation

Lutheranism in the Freeport vicinity had its beginnings about 1800 when Pastor John Michael Steck of Greensburg began to hold occasional services for the scattered Lutherans of these parts at what was known as the "Blue Slate", or "Dutch Protestant" Church on the hill overlooking present day Boggsville. This church was located west of Slate Lick, about a mile and a half distant, at the top of Buffalo Creek hill, and about fifteen rods to the right of the road. The site is readily identified by the burial ground attached to the church and in which interments were made until about 1900. The "Blue Slate congregation", as it is referred to in a legal instrument bearing date of 1825, doubtless took its name from a vein of blue slate which appears in the bed of a small stream that flows nearby. This church, in reality two congregations, a Lutheran and a German Reformed, was organized sometime prior to 1807, with the property presumably being owned and occupied by them jointly. History states that as early as 1802 there was preaching by a German preacher by the name of Philip Muckenhaupt, and that in 1806 Henry Bash hewed logs for the church that was built the following year.

The first Lutheran pastor of the Blue Slate congregation was the Rev. J. M. Steck, who probably preached in the Iseman home prior to the erection of the church in 1807. It is believed he continued as pastor, when his trips from Greensburg permitted, until either 1813 or 1817. Other pioneer preachers included a Mr. Heil, J. A. Mohler from 1817 to 1823, K. M. Zeilfels from 1824 to 1825, and G. A. Reichert, 1825 to 1832. The next pastor was Rev. J. H. Hohnholz who served from 1833 to 1835.

In the year 1834 the Trustees of the Blue Slate congregation, Mr. Henry Keener of the German Reformed congregation and Mr. George Iseman of the Lutheran, were authorized to build a log church for the use and occupancy of the two denominations. This was done the following year. The edifice was a structure 28 x 32 feet, and furnished with plain pews and pulpit. About 1846 it ceased to be occupied as a house of worship. As late as 1852 a singing school met in it.

The Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichert served as supply pastor from 1835-1837. He was followed by Rev. J. G. C. Schweizerbarth from 1837-1840, Rev. J. H. Bernheim, 1940-1842, and Rev. John Esensee (German) 1843-1845.

The earlist record known to exist is that of baptism in 1843 by Rev. John Esensee, recorded in the German language. The first record in English is that of the

baptism of the son of William and Julia Ann Winterburn on February 16, 1845 presumably by Rev. David Earhart.

Formation of St. Matthew's or Mud Church

Rev. David Earhart, a licentiate of the Pittsburgh Synod became pastor preaching in English on November 9, 1844, and continued as pastor until March, 1852. For a time Rev. Henry Esensee was contemporaneous with him, preaching in German. Early in Pastor Earhart's ministry, in 1845, the English speaking portion of the Blue Slate congregation, because of the dilapidated condition of the church, desired to build a church at a more central location which resulted in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (known as "Mud Church"), being erected and located on land donated by George Iseman on Route 28 four miles from Freeport. A small cemetery may be identified by a clump of evergreens about fifteen feet above the present road bed. The new church, erected in 1845 at a cost of $250, was of double frame construction with a layer of mud between the inner and outer frame. With the building of "Mud Church", the Blue Slate Congregation became smaller and smaller with the Reformed group uniting with Slate Lick Presbyterian Church and the Lutherans going to Mud Church. This English church was subsequently reorganized and known as St. Matthew's. The pastor, David Earhart, may be regarded as the founder.

The Clinton Congregation (1851-1875)

This pastor also figured in the history of the Lutheran congregation at Clinton, where history records that the Lutheran Church was organized by Rev. David Earhart, August 13, 1851. The Clinton neighborhood was settled in 1800 and laid out by Enos McBride in 1830. The Presbyterians and the few Lutherans in the village made an agreement to erect a union house of worship, the cornerstone of which was laid by Pastor Earhart in 1851 where, in August of that year, a corporate body was formed. This congregation was mainly served by Rev. Lewis Kuhns, pastor of St. John's Freeport from 1852-1856. Until 1860 this harmonious agreement was carried out, each congregation taking alternate Sundays for its own, but finally the Lutherans became so few in numbers as to find it impossible to secure a ministerial supply. Thus with Christian amity, the Lutherans in 1876 abandoned their share of the property, united with other churches including St. Matthew's and permitted the Presbyterians to build for themselves a neat frame structure replacing the old building which had fallen into a state of disrepair.

St. Matthew's Relocated

In 1878 it was resolved to build a new church in a new location. The site selected was about three miles from the old one, nearer the river road running to Freeport, and was located at McVille near Route 128, where on June 29, 1878 the cornerstone of their fourth church building was laid and the building dedicated debt free by Pastor Kitzmiller, November 3, 1878. It was built of frame, in size about 38 x 50 feet, at a cost of $1,620.

St. Matthew's secured its charter on December 6, 1847. Other pastors served St. Matthew's as follows: L. M. Kuhns, 1852-1856; J. H. Wright, 1856-1860; J. H. Brown, 1861-1864; J. K. Melhorn, 1865-1871; J. H. A. Kitzmiller, 1871-1881; H. K. Shanor, 1882-1889; J. K. Melhorn (second term), 1889-1895; W. O. Laub, 1896-1904; C. E. Dozer, 1905-1908; R. W. Yeany, 1908-1910; Herbert Martens, 1911-1918; Daniel Ketterman (supply), 1919; H. A. Rinard, 1919-1920; H. B. Ernest, 1921-1922; S. G. Dornblaser, D. D., 1922-1932.

In the year 1932 St. Matthew's Church united with Trinity Freeport.

The Three Congregations of Freeport

Three Lutheran congregations existed for many years in Freeport: St. John's, organized in 1833, Zion, in 1861, and Emmanuel, in 1868. These congregations

continued as separate bodies until the Merger in 1919 when they united in forming the present Trinity.

St. John's of Freeport

A few persons of the Lutheran faith were residents of the vicinity of Freeport before 1800, but they had no regular organization, attending services in the old Iseman settlement, several miles distant. The first Lutheran pastor to visit the town, so far as can be learned, was Rev. G. A. Reichert, who baptized a son of Joseph and Elizabeth Schub August 29, 1830, but conducted no public service. In 1833, Rev. John Heinrich Hohnholz, a licentiate of the Ohio Synod, began to preach in the schoolhouse. St. John's congregation was probably organized by him is 1833, for it united with three other congregations in petitioning the Ohio Synod in 1834 that he might continue to be their pastor. Two of the four congregations served by him in 1834 were Freeport and Iseman's (Blue Slate congregation). His license was withdrawn in 1835. Rev. G. A. Reichert succeeded him in 1836, and preached his last sermon in the old schoolhouse December 31, 1837. The next pastor was Rev. John Herman Bernheim, who entered the field in 1838, and reorganized the church in the spring of 1841. This pastor was quite popular in Freeport, preaching to large audiences until the time of his retirement in 1844. Rev. George B. Holmes was given an ad interim license by the president of the Ohio Synod December 1, 1844, in order to serve Freeport and the neighboring congregations.

St. John's Church participated in the organization of the Pittsburgh Synod, January 15, 1845, through her lay delegate, Joseph Shoop, but Pastor Holmes was not received until 1846. In 1848 the old Baptist Church was bought for $400; but this building proved unsatisfactory, and a good frame church was built at a cost of $2,100, and dedicated by Pastor J. H. Brown October 26, 1862, Rev. Lewis M. Kuhns delivering the sermon. This property was extensively repaired in 1902, at a cost of $2,500, but served the congregation through many years. Under the leadership of Pastor Brown the congregation was greatly prospered, and the new church was scarcely large enough to accommodate the people on communion occasions.

The following pastors ministered in St. John's before the outbreak of the synodical controversy: J. H. Hohnholz, 1833-1835; G. A. Reichert, 1836-1837; J. H. Bernheim, 1838-1844; G. B. Holmes, 1844-1848; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1848-1851; Lewis M. Kuhns, 1852-1856; J. H. Wright, 1856-1861; J. H. Brown, 1861-1865.

Division in St. John's

The pastor during the division was Rev. J. K. Melhorn, whose pastorate extended from July 1, 1865 to April 1, 1871. The congregation had 140 members in 1867, and was about equally divided in the support of the General Synod and General Council, while the pastor was a staunch adherent of the latter body. A congregational meeting was held February 8, 1868, "for the purpose of adopting a form of charter and taking the initiatory steps for the incorporation of the church." The General Synod party objected to the General Council basis of incorporation, and withdrew from the meeting in a body. For the next few months confusion reigned, and the bitterest of feelings developed on both sides, both parties claiming to be the true St. John's. A climax was reached November 15, 1868, when the pastor and his adherents expelled sixty-nine persons, who were the recognized supporters of the General Synod. Their expulsion was not unexpected, for they had already formed a separate congregation, and were being regularly supplied by Rev. H. H. Hall of Leechburg. Pastor Hall ministered to the General Synod congregation from October 1, 1868 to April 1, 1870, holding the services in the U. P. Church. For the next five years they had neither church nor pastor, holding services in some convenient place when fortunate enough to secure a supply.

In the meantime suit was brought against the General Council congregation for possession of the property; but the decision of master in evidence, rendered in August 1876, was in favor of the defendants. The decision awarded the right to the name Lutheran to both congregations, but gave the name and property of St. John's Church to the party which had remained in possession.

Emmanuel of General Synod

The General Synod congregation then bought a lot on Buffalo street, and built a frame church costing $4,000. This church was dedicated by Pastor D. R. P. Barry September 30, 1877, as "Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church".

Out in the country a similar division occurred in St. Matthew's Church. The General Synod adherents withdrew in a body, formed another St. Matthew's, and worshipped in the Sharder's Grove Presbyterian Church; but eventually the congregation disbanded, and the greater part of the members united with Emmanuel Church.

From 1868 to 1919 Emmanuel Church gradually developed from 69 to 191 members, being served by the following pastors: H. H. Hall, 1868-1870; J. B. Christ, 1870-1872; Supplies, 1872-1875; D. R. P. Barry, 1875-1880; Max Lentz, 1881; A. C. Felker, 1881-1882; Isaiah Irvine, 1882-1885; Luther M. Kuhns, 1886-1887; J. W. Breitenbach, 1887-1888; J. E. F. Hassinger, 1889-1893; H. C. Reller, 1893-1901; John H. Diehl, 1901-1902; H. C. Erdman, 1902-1904; H. B. Ernsberger, 1905-1907; John G. Koser, 1908-1911; H. S. Garnes, 1911-1912; J. W. Shearer, 1912-1916; Supplies, 1916-1918; Daniel Ketterman, 1918-1919. During the pastorate of Rev. Shearer, 1912-1916, Mr. Henry Baker and wife deeded their home on Buffalo Street to Emmanuel Church for a parsonage.

In the meantime the St. John's congregation continued to worship in the old Fourth street church. Its development was slow, largely because it was always associated with two or three other churches, and the pastors could not give it the time and attention needed. In 1919 it could report only sixty-five members.

The pastors of St. John's during this time were: J. K. Melhorn, 1865-1871; J. H. A. Kitzmiller, 1871-1881; H. K. Shanor, 1882-1888; J. K. Melhorn (second term), 1889-1895; W. O. Laub, 1896-1904; Charles E. Dozer, 1905-1908; W. R. Yeany, 1908-1910; Herbert Martens, 1911-1918.

Zion German, Freeport

Another congregation of the Pittsburgh Synod, occupying this field at the time of the synodical merger, was Zion German Church. This congregation was incorporated April 23, 1862, on petition of Rev. G. A. Reichert, George Eppler, David Kraft, John Mangold, and George Pfaff. A small church was built in 1861, and used as a place of worship until the time of the congregational merger, when it was sold for $2,800, and the net proceeds placed in the building fund of Trinity Church.

The following pastors served this German Church: G. A. Reichert, 1861-1875; C. F. Tiemann, 1880-1883; J. G. Amschler, 1883-1886; Martin Guadian, 1886-1889; A. E. R. Collman, 1890; Robert Barner, 1890-1904; Supplies, 1904-1907; H. P. Hansen, 1907-1910; Johannes Burgdorf, 1910-1919.

Union of St. John's, Emmanuel, and Zion to Form Trinity, 1920

Much credit for the union of these three congregations is due to the Rev. G. Franklin Gehr, President of Pittsburgh Synod, General Council, and the Rev. T. L. Crouse, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, General Synod, and the reasonable desire of the members themselves to combine their interests and efforts for the building up of one strong Lutheran Congregation. The Rev. Dan Ketterman, then pastor of the

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, arranged for a union Communion service of the Lutherans in Freeport, Easter Sunday, April 20, 1919, which was participated in by 220 members.

To make the work of merger easier he resigned his parish May 1, 1919, after which the three congregations united in extending a call to Rev. H. A. Rinard. A new constitution was adopted February 15, 1920, when the present name was assumed. A new charter was secured September 10, 1920. As soon as the members had adjusted themselves to the new conditions, steps were taken to build a new church. The net proceeds of the sale of the former Zion's Church were placed in the building fund, together with $7,000.00 received from the sale of the former St. John's Church. It was decided to erect the new building on the site of the old Emmanuel's Church, and adjoining properties were secured at a cost of $9,600.00.

The new church was built of Buff Indiana limestone, of pure Gothic architecture with a seating capacity of 375, plus additional space in the connecting educational unit, was dedicated June 5, 1927 at a cost of $117,500. Later the congregation acquired the adjacent Heasley and the Kerr properties with the latter becoming the parsonage — at a cost of $14,000.00. A short time later Trinity took possession of the Findon property west of the church, as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cramer. The total indebtedness of the church was removed at its 25th anniversary in 1952, the last year of the fruitful 20 year pastorate of Bruce R. Shaffer, D. D.

The Trinity Scholarship Fund was established in 1955 to aid students of the congregation in preparing for Full-time Christian service. In the same year Trinity became a 100% congregation subscribing to "The Lutheran" by making it an item of the annual budget. In 1956 the Cramer Memorial property west of the church, with the aid of a $1,000 bequest from the Glenn Cramer Estate, was converted into a church parking lot as a memorial to the deceased members of the Cramer family. Prior to the establishment of the parking lot the alley to the rear of the church and parsonage was opened and the alley west of the church was abandoned.

Trinity has had consistent growth from the time of the erection of its new building in 1932, the last year of Dr. Dornblaser's pastorate, with 262 communing members rising to 451 communing members in 1955. Similar increases are noted in the growth of the Sunday School which numbered 400 members in 1955. Finances rose from $9,388 in 1932 to $28,113 in 1955. Benevolences in 1932 were $2,873 and in 1955 $8,845. Confirmed membership as of January 1, 1956 was 538, while the baptized membership totaled 758.

The pastors of Trinity were: H. A. Rinard, 1919-1920; H. B. Ernest, 1921-1922; S. G. Dornblaser, D. D., 1922-1932; Bruce R. Shaffer, D. D., 1933-1953; Paul N. Schnur, D. D., 1953 —.

Girard St. John's 1866

THIS church was organized with fifty members by the Rev. C. F. Boehner, May 13, 1866. Two weeks later, Heinrich Becker, Jacob Kuebler, Heinrich Kreletter, Simon Reichert, John Kuessel, and Christian Yeager were installed as officers. The church was at once admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod, made a part of the Lake Shore Parish, and served in connection with Mill Creek and Fairview until 1876. During the year 1870 the Lake Shore Mission became a self-sustaining parish and in September of that same year a white frame church building, secured from the Methodist Church and still used by the congregation, was dedicated.

In 1876, the congregation withdrew from the Pittsburgh Synod to unite with a German congregation in Fairview in extending a call to a pastor from the Evangelical Synod of North America. In 1901 the congregation wrote to the President of the Pittsburgh Synod asking for restoration and, upon the resignation of the last German Evangelical pastor, restoration was granted. The Rev. C. Theodore Benze of Erie was appointed to supply the pulpit. In 1904 Rev. Benze secured the election of Rev. J. J. Neudorffer with the written understanding that the pastor should be a member of the Pittsburgh Synod.

Upon the resignation of Pastor Neudorffer in 1907 the congregation was left without a pastor and was supplied for a period of eleven years by Erie pastors. It was during this period that the congregation went through a severe struggle for survival, dwindling in membership until on many Sundays there were only two or three in attendance for worship services. Inattention to the claims of the English language during this same period was undoubtedly partly responsible for the serious losses in membership.

In June of 1917 English services were first introduced. Also in 1917 the ladies were organized and have been an organization of the church ever since that date. In 1918 the Rev. F. P. Welkner was called to serve the newly organized Girard-Conneaut Parish. The pastor lived in Conneaut, Ohio, and served both Grace Lutheran of Conneaut and St. John's of Girard. This relationship continued through four pastorates until, in 1938, the Rev. Lewis R. Fox of Erie was assigned as supply and continued in that capacity until 1946. Grace Church, Conneaut, and St. John's, Girard, were again united as a parish under the pastorate of Rev. Nelson A. Miller and continued together until March of 1953.

During the summer of 1949 Seminarian G. Warren Rigg, Jr. worked in the Girard area and successfully activated a sleeping congregation. His work was continued under successive pastorates and a new congregation was born. During 1950 ground was broken for a Sunday School unit, a Brotherhood was organized, a Luther League was organized and in 1951 the Sunday School unit was completed and dedicated.

In March of 1953 the Synodical Board of Missions in connection with the Girard congregation called the Rev. Clarence B. Daniels who served for a period of one year. In May, 1954 a parsonage was purchased and a call was extended to Rev. Judson H. Westgate. St. John's was united for a period of one year with Christ Lutheran of Springboro, Pa., and in May of 1955 a call was reissued to Pastor Westgate making him the first full time resident pastor. The congregation was self supporting.

In July of 1954 a corner lot adjoining the church was purchased for parking facilities. In February of 1956 the congregation scheduled two services for Sunday morning worship. The work begun by the Holy Spirit in St. John's, Girard, Penn-

sylvania, was slow in fruition, but today, with that same spirit leading and directing them, the congregation is accepting their responsibilities and is moving forward for Christ and His Church.

The following pastors have served this congregation: C. F. Boehner, 1866-1867; Herman Eggers, 1868-1870; W. F. Seeger, 1870-1873; G. H. Schoemperlen, 1873-1876; Ferdinand Buesser, 1876-1880; Carl Goehling, 1880-1890; Robert Koehler, 1890-1893; Betz, 1893-1897; Kratzler, 1897-1898; R. Vieweg, 1898-1900; Paul Reikow, 1900-1901; Brandi, 1901-1903; C. T. Benze (supply), 1907-1908; John A. Beighey, 1908-1912; H. F. Gruhn (supply), 1914-1915; John A. Beighey, G. A. Benze and others (supplies), 1915-1919; F. P. Welkner, 1919-1926; Herman Glander, 1926-1929; Jacob Kroen, 1929-1931; John Nycum, 1931-1938; Lewis R. Fox (supply), 1938-1946; Nelson A. Miller, 1946-1949; Student Warren Rigg, Jr., June-August, 1949; William E. Fruth, 1949-1952; Robert Hamilton, 1952-1953; C. B. Dainels, 1953-1954; Judson H. Westgate, 1954-1957; Henry Hendel, 1957 —.

Glassport — St. John's — 1910

ST. JOHN'S is the product of missionary activity of the General Synod. On March 10, 1910 the missionary superintendent organized the church with 24 members. Dr. Himes of Trinity, McKeesport, was to exercise general oversight over the new congregation.

The first resident and regularly elected pastor of the church was Andrew C. Curran who began his work on August 1, 1912. In this year the church and parsonage of the United Evangelical church, corner Vermont and Seventh streets, was purchased for $4,800. At a cost of $650 the property was put in usable condition. The church was used for the first time October 13, 1912. A new pipe organ was secured from Trinity, Connellsville. New chancel furnishings were dedicated by Pastor Curran on December 15, 1914.

The pastorate of Arnold G. Lansberry, the longest in the history of the congregation, was eventful in many ways. The church, interior and exterior, was repainted. Repairs were made on the parsonage as well as the church. In 1932 the church became self-sustaining and in 1935 the debt was paid. This pastorate terminated March 9, 1941 after twelve years of service.

In 1941 new constitutions were prepared for the Sunday School and the church. They were voted on and accepted in January, 1942. An inovation of 1941 was the introduction of the Junior sermon following the Apostles' Creed. After this short sermon the children went downstairs.

A service flag with blue stars to represent the boys of the church and Sunday School who were in the service was donated in 1942 by Philo Christo Girls. The stars were covered with red, white and blue ribboned flowers which were uncovered by a member of the family as his name was called out. In this same year a first aid substation was established in the Sunday School basement and opened for inspection on September of that year.

A new dossal curtain was presented by the Philo Christo girls in 1943. In 1955 the church and parsonage were covered with aluminum siding. A garage was built for the convenience of the pastor in 1956 at a cost of $1,000. The annex which was used as the beginners department was re-plastered in green tone. The name of the church was repainted in 1956 and the organ was completely rebuilt. New Christian and American flags were dedicated on Palm Sunday, 1957.

Pastors who have served St. John's are: T. A. Himes, 1910; U. A. Guss, 1911-1912; A. C. Curran, 1912-1919; S. K. Herbster, 1920-1926; William B. Sadtler, 1927-1929; Arnold G. Lansberry, 1929-1941; Robert W. Hahne, 1941-1944; Albert E. Speck, 1944-1952; Hans B. Jentsch, 1953-1955; J. Earl Reed, 1956 —.

Glenfield — St. Paul's — 1863

(See Plate 15)

THE pioneers of this community were chiefly Germans, many of whom were Lutherans. In 1860 the Rev. William A. Passavant and the Rev. H. C. Kaehler visited this community of Glenfield and arranged to hold divine worship services in the local school building. The first home missionary to serve this community was Pastor Kaehler. This first pastor served one year and was succeeded by Rev. Robert Neumann who organized this congregation February 8, 1863 with 25 communing members. The early synodical records refer to this congregation as the "Kilbuck Church." On April 11, 1863, an application was made for a charter.

In 1864 the Rev. Robert Neumann resigned. This congregation joined with Trinity parish which then extended a call to Rev. Herman Gilbert. In 1867 a beautiful and elevated church site was donated by Mr. C. Behringer, on which a small frame church was erected. This church was dedicated by Pastor Gilbert on Ascension Day, May 30, 1867, Rev G. A. Wenzel preaching in German and Rev. Henry W. Roth in English. This was the first church built in the borough of Glenfield.

In 1870 this congregation purchased two acres of land for a cemetery, a short distance beyond Glenfield. Growth was noted by a Sunday School enrollment in 1874 of 60 children. This church was enlarged and beautified in 1887, during the long pastorate of Rev. Ivan Dietrich, by the erection of a tower, chancel and sacristy. The German language was used entirely during the early years of this congregation. In the last decade of the nineteenth century, services were held in both German and English.

During the pastorate of Rev. Paul E. Porath, German services were discontinued. The Rev. W. Roy Goff was called as pastor of this church which then joined with Rehoboth Lutheran church in forming a parish. The church basement was excavated in 1931 which enlarged the facilities of the congregation very much. In 1939 a new organ was dedicated. Other beautiful furnishings of this church include a font of Italian marble which was presented by Charles Freise in memory of his wife, Jennie. Pastor Goff retired from the ministry in 1942 and was elected Pastor Emeritus of the congregation.

Mr. H. Charles Seelhorst, an active layman from Emsworth, served this parish from November 1945 to May 1946, when Rev. H. Wahl Pfeifer returned from military service as a chaplain in the United States Navy, and accepted a call to this parish. Rev. Logan L. Kuhns was appointed Supply Pastor of this congregation in January, 1949. This congregation at this time dissolved parish relationship with the Rehoboth Lutheran church. One year later Rev. Kuhns accepted a regular call as pastor of this congregation and continues to serve this parish. Recent improvements during the present pastorate include the installation of a gas furnace, repair of the impressive stained glass windows in the church and the finishing of the church basement. The present confirmed membership of the church is 144.

Parish alignments during the life of this congregation follows: This church was joined with Trinity Parish from 1864-1878; from 1879-1886 with several mission stations of the synod; from 1887-1910 with Woods Run; from 1910-1917 with

Economy; from 1917-1920 with Trinity German Church of Pittsburgh; from 1920-1922 with St. James Church of Pittsburgh; from 1922-1929 it was served as a separate parish; from 1929-1949 with Rehoboth Lutheran Church. Since 1949 is has become a separate parish.

The following pastors have served this church: Robert Neumann, 1863-1864; Herman Gilbert, 1864-1872; Carl Jaeckel (Supply), 1873; John Muehlhauser, 1874-1878; Solomon Munsch, 1878-1879; Joseph Rechsteiner, 1879-1882; P. C. Bauman, 1882-1886; Ivan Dietrich, 1886-1910; Supplies, 1910-1912; G. M. Kaiser 1913-1914; John Mueller, 1915-1917; F. J. Fuerst, 1917-1822; Paul E. Porath, 1922-1925; Henry K. Shanor, 1925-1927; W. Roy Goff, 1929-1942; Harvey L. Huntley, 1942-1945; H. Wahl Pfeifer, 1946-1949; Logan L. Kuhns, 1949 —.

Glenshaw Bethlehem 1930

(See Plate 15)

BETHLEHEM Evangelical Lutheran Church of Glenshaw, Pa., is the realization of the vision of the Reverend W. Blair Claney, then Pastor of Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Etna, Pa. Foreseeing the desirability of planting the Lutheran Church in a community within two miles of Etna. Pastor Claney persuaded a number of members of Emmanuel Church to become the nucleus for the new congregation.

On June 24, 1930, the Synodical Board of Home Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod instructed the Reverend John J. Myers, D. D., the Missionary Superintendent, to lease a lot in this district north of Etna and to erect thereon a frame portable chapel. This directive was carried out with the greatest expedition for the records show that the first session of the new Sunday School was held on the morning of August 10, 1930. The chapel was dedicated the same afternoon by the Reverend E. B. Burgess, D. D., the President of the Pittsburgh Synod. He was assisted in this Service by the Rev. John J. Myers, D. D., the Reverend W. Blair Claney, the Reverend Elmer A. Ortner and Student William B. Claney of Mt. Airy Seminary.

The congregation was formally organized on September 14, 1930, with 62 members. At this organization meeting, a call was extended to Student William B. Claney to become Pastor of the new congregation, contingent upon his graduation from the Seminary and his ordination by the Pittsburgh Synod. Everything proceeded according to plan and Pastor Claney became the Pastor on June 1, 1931. It is worthy of note that the son of the man who envisioned the new congregation should be called to take the vision on a long forward step. Pastor Claney served the congregation well and with much personal sacrifice until accepting a call to St. John's, Homestead, effective October 15, 1938.

On January 20, 1941, Pastor Theodore H. Althof became Pastor and served until December 31, 1943. This short pastorate produced one very important decision by the congregation. Realizing that the present chapel was not in the most strategic location, three lots were purchased on Mt. Royal Boulevard, one mile north of the present location. Due to the restrictions imposed by the war, it was not possible to do anything beyond the purchase of the property.

The Rev. Herman J. Schmid, S.T.M., who had just been released from active duty as a chaplain in the Army of the United States, assumed the pastorate on March 1, 1946. At this writing, he is still serving this congregation.

The need for re-locating the church plus the inadequate conditions under which the congregation was forced to carry on its work, prompted the decision to proceed

with the erection of the first unit of a new church. This action was taken on May 18, 1947. Additional ground was purchased and construction was begun August 2, 1948, the cornerstone being laid on September 26, 1948. The building was ready for dedication on April 3, 1949. The monetary value of this first unit is $165,000.

Since the completion of the first unit of the church, additional ground was purchased and a parsonage erected. The architects are now drawing plans for the erection of the final unit which will be one of the finest church buildings in the Pittsburgh area. Thus will be realized not only the vision of Pastor Claney, but also there is vindication here of the faith of the Board of American Missions who made possible the early life and progress of this congregation. The completed church will stand as a memorial to all those who struggled at times, who were willing to sacrifice and who never lost sight of the fact that they were building not only for themselves but for generations of their posterity.

The following pastors have served Bethlehem: Wm. G. Claney, Jr., 1931-1938; Luther M. Schulze, S.T.M., 1938-1940; Theo. H. Althof, 1941-1943; Stephen A. Bendes, 1944-1946; Herman J. Schmid, S.T.M., 1946-1958.

Greensburg — First — 1784

(See Plate 16)

THIS church enjoys the distinction of being one of the four congregations that composed the parish of the first Lutheran pastor of western Pennsylvania. Some of its founders were numbered among the pioneers who took up lands in this area after the defeat of the Indians at Bushy Run in 1763. In 1784 the residents of Newtown, the name given to Greensburg prior to 1786, erected a log schoolhouse near St. Clair's spring. The building was used both for school and worship purposes. Here the Rev. John William Weber for the Reformeds (sometimes called Calvinists) and the Rev. Anton Ulrich Luetge for the Lutherans held the first church services in Greensburg. Although the Rev. Mr. Luetge was never ordained to the Gospel Ministry by a Lutheran Synod, and although he did not possess a a license to preach during the first six years of his ministry in Westmoreland County, and although he left no records of his ministerial acts, he is generally counted the first Lutheran pastor to serve the congregations of this area. In 1785, Luetge applied to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania for reception into that body listing himself as pastor of the congregations of Greensburg, Harrold's, Brush Creek, and Ridge. In 1789, Luetge left this area to return to his home in the Cumberland Valley. He died in 1796.

The Rev. John Michael Steck came to the Westmoreland County Parish in the Fall of 1791. Like his predecessor, he was not ordained and, for five years, did not possess a license to preach. Dr. Burgess in his "History of the Pittsburgh Synod" correctly notes that "He (J. M. Steck) was one of the most useful and influential men in the Lutheran Church of western Pennsylvania. With the spirit of a true bishop of souls, he journeyed far and wide in his ministrations, and thousands of people learned to speak his name with reverence." During the course of his years as pastor of the Greensburg Church, he also served the churches at Harrold's, Brush Creek, and Manor, in addition to starting and serving churches throughout all of Westmoreland, Washington, Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Mercer and Crawford counties. He was licensed in 1796. He edited the catechism which was published in 1817 at Greensburg by John Armbrust & Co. In 1818 he united with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio and was elected its Senior in 1822. He died on July 14, 1830, having served his Church and his Lord in Greensburg for almost thirty-nine years.

In August, 1792, the Lutheran and Reformed congregations of Greensburg determined to purchase property as a site for a church and ground for a graveyard. The trustees purchased two acres and 66 perches on South Main Street for a burying ground from Christopher Truby and John Miller for four pounds and ten shillings on February 28, 1795. On the same date and for a similar sum of money, they bought a town lot and a half, 90 x 100 feet, on the corner of Main and Third Streets, from Christopher Truby and wife. The delay in making the purchase of these parcels of ground was occasioned by the Whiskey Insurrection — a time of excitement and uncertainty in this area that included threats of establishing an independent government.

However, the ground having been purchased, it was quickly put to use. In 1795, a log church was built, rude and primitive in all its appointments. The floor was of puncheon and rough benches served as pews. A plain pulpit and altar graced the chancel. No heating arrangements were included. This was the first church built in Greensburg. In this log church, Rev. Weber held the first communion services for the Reformeds on April 22, 1796, when nineteen members communed. Pastor J. M. Steck likely administered the Sacrament to the Lutherans at about the same time although no record of such a service has survived. The earliest record now in the possession of the church is one showing the baptisms of J. M. Steck beginning on September 30, 1792. The first recorded administration of the Holy Communion is dated April 14, 1799.

On October 20, 1799, a confirmation class of 32 joined with 55 others in the reception of the Sacrament of the Altar. Communion services were held twice each year and recorded from 1799 onward.

On May 15, 1815, additional ground adjoining the church lot was purchased from Mr. Ehrenfriedt for $300 as a site for a new church. Work was begun at once the cornerstone being laid in 1815 by Pastors Steck and Weber. The new brick two story church was not finished until 1819 due to the scarcity of material and the onset of hard times in the community. When finished, the "Old Beehive", as it was familiarly called, cost about $6,000 and stood in the place of the present church building for some sixty years. At its completion, the congregations were so much in debt that the lot on which the old church stood, at the corner of South Main and Third streets, was sold to the five congregations of the Reformed Parish for use as a parsonage for the sum of $461. This was in 1822. The same ground was purchased by the First Church in 1948 for $50,000. The indebtedness on the brick church was not cleared until 1830. The Reformeds cleared their debt on lot and parsonage in 1848.

In 1829, the Rev. Michael J. Steck was called to assist his father in the care of the Greensburg parish. Upon the death of J. M. Steck, the son assumed the full responsibilities of the parish and carried them until his death on September 1, 1848. M. J. Steck studied for the ministry under his father and the Rev. Jacob Schnee of Pittsburgh. He was licensed by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in June, 1816. He served congregations in and around Lancaster, Ohio, until his return to Greensburg. While he was the Pastor of First Church, almost two acres of additional ground, adjacent to the graveyard, were bought from the heirs of John Bierer for $341, in order to allow much needed room.

In 1845 a pipe organ built by Stark and Minehart, costing $800, was installed in the church. This was the first such instrument in the area and aroused no small criticism both in the congregation and outside. Mr. John Springer was the first organist, serving for twenty years. Joseph Huber succeeded him. The present organist of the church, Mrs. Randall Peters, Sr., has served in that capacity for more than thirty years. In 1845, Pastor Steck led in the organization of the Pittsburgh Synod

and served as its president. In 1847, he and the councils of his several congregations called the Rev. John Rugan of Philadelphia to be an assistant pastor with special reference to the increasing need of English services. Such services were conducted in First Church every other Sunday for almost a year.

In 1848, First Church was shaken by the death of its beloved pastor and by the withdrawal of many of the English speaking members under the leadership of assistant Pastor Rugan to form Zion's congregation.

The Rev. Jonas Mechling became Pastor of First Church in 1848. He was a son of the congregation, having been confirmed by J. M. Steck in 1819. He had studied under the elder Steck and assisted in the several churches near Greensburg. In 1820, he was licensed by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio and returned to the Greensburg area to minister to some eight congregations north, east and south of town. On August 22, 1849, the congregation of First Church formally sanctioned its withdrawal from the Pittsburgh Synod and return to the Ohio Synod. The area after 1868 was divided into two parishes: Greensburg and Harrold's constituted the Greensburg Parish, and Brush Creek and Manor, the Brush Creek Parish.

On September 1, 1868, the Rev. G. A. Bruegel became pastor of the Greensburg Parish with the distinct understanding that he should conduct half the services in the English language. At this time, the Parish belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio. In addition to Greensburg and Harrold's, Pastor Bruegel conducted services at Manor, Pore's Schoolhouse, Penn Station, Kepple's Schoolhouse, and occasionally at Vandyke's and Grapeville Schoolhouse.

Shortly after the coming of Pastor Bruegel, the common treasury was divided and Lutherans and Reformed became custodians of their own funds. This was the entering wedge that resulted in the agreeable severence of relationships between the two congregations in 1881. In 1870 a constitution and by-laws were adopted and a year later a charter was procured. On July 5, 1872, Pastor Bruegel left Greensburg.

The Rev. Enoch Smith came to Greensburg in the spring of 1873 from the Mt. Pleasant parish. During his stay, the parsonage on West Third Street was erected and paid for. The relations between the Reformed and Lutheran congregations that had existed for almost a century were happily dissolved by the agreement of both congregations to sell the church buildings and grounds at auction. At the sale in 1881, Josiah J. Mechling bid for the Lutherans and Samuel Truxal for the Reformed. Mr. Mechling bid $11,600 and final settlement was made on August 26, 1881. While the amount of money bid was higher than the council had authorized, Mr. Mechling generously donated the difference out of his own pocket.

English was increasingly the language of the church since Pastor Smith had great difficulty in handling German. His few years in Greensburg — he left in November, 1881 — marked a happy solution of what had become unbearable problems.

In January, 1882, the Rev. J. C. Kunzmann, then of Kittanning, was called to succeed Pastor Smith. Under his leadership the congregation determined to erect a new church building. In 1883, the "Old Beehive" was torn down. Pledges totalling more than $19,000 were secured. A contract for building was let to M. H. Griese of Cleveland, Ohio, for the sum of $22,000.

The cornerstone was laid, August 11, 1883; the basement was occupied for services March 30, 1884; and the completed building dedicated free of encumbrance April 11, 1886, the Rev. Dr. W. A. Passavant preaching the sermon, while Pastor Kunzmann, assisted by former Pastors Smith and Bruegel, conducted the services of consecration. The completed church and its furnishings cost $39,000. Its seating capacity is about 600. The highest of its towers, adorned with a Latin cross, is 164 feet.

The Rev. A. L. Yount became Pastor of First Church, June 1, 1891, and served until his death on December 14, 1914. During his more than twenty-three years of ministry in Greensburg, he baptized 1020 children and added 1140 persons to the communing membership of the Church. The church building was improved, a new organ installed, and classrooms built for Church School purposes. "The Church Register", a monthly publication, appeared in the almost 400 homes of the congregation, bearing announcements, news, sermons, addresses, and doctrinal articles of concern to the members of First Church.

During the pastorate of F. C. Martin the church building was thoroughly renovated at a cost of $15,000 and the congregation rose to new heights of concern for the wider work of the church.

On December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, 1941, the Rev. Samuel Boerstler preached his first sermon as Pastor of First Church. Literally hundreds of the young men and women of First Church served their country faithfully during World War II. The war days demanded sacrificial living and giving on the part of the pastor and people. A building fund was started in 1942 with the hope that much needed space for youth work could be gained when the young people returned from military service.

And in 1948, the congregation rededicated a completely renovated and remodeled church nave and purchased the house that stood at the corner of South Main and West Third Street for the use of its young people. The cost of the new property was $50,000. For an additional $14,000 the building was remodeled to serve as a Parish House.

Rev. Wm. F. Pfeifer, Jr., assumed the duties of the pastorate in November, 1951. On the occasion of the celebration of the 172nd birthday of the congregation, October 28, 1956, the mortgage on the church incurred in the 1948 expansion and improvement program, was burned. The congregation launched out on a planned program designed to add much needed space to its educational facilities.

On January 1, 1956, the church reported 1605 baptized members, of whom 1228 were confirmed members, of whom 931 were communing members. The Church School enrolled 740 in all departments with an average weekly attendance of 421. The property of the congregation was conservatively valued at $385,000 and its 1955 giving for church purposes established a new high point in its history — $63,000. The Rev. George Gesler continued to receive partial support from the congregation as its missionary in India. This support was first assumed in 1929.

A connected list of the pastorates follows: Anton Ulrich Luetge, 1784-1789; John M. Steck, 1791-1830; Michael J. Steck, 1830-1848; Jonas Mechling, 1848-1868; G. A. Bruegel, 1868-1872; Enoch Smith, 1872-1881; J. C. Kunzmann, D. D., 1881-1891; A. L. Yount, D. D., 1891-1914; C. P. McLaughlin, D. D., 1916-1918; F. C. Martin, D. D., 1919-1928; B. C. Ritz, D. D., 1928-1931; C. N. Shindler, D. D., 1932-1941; Samuel Boerstler, S.T.D., 1941-1951; W. F. Pfeifer, Jr., 1951 —.

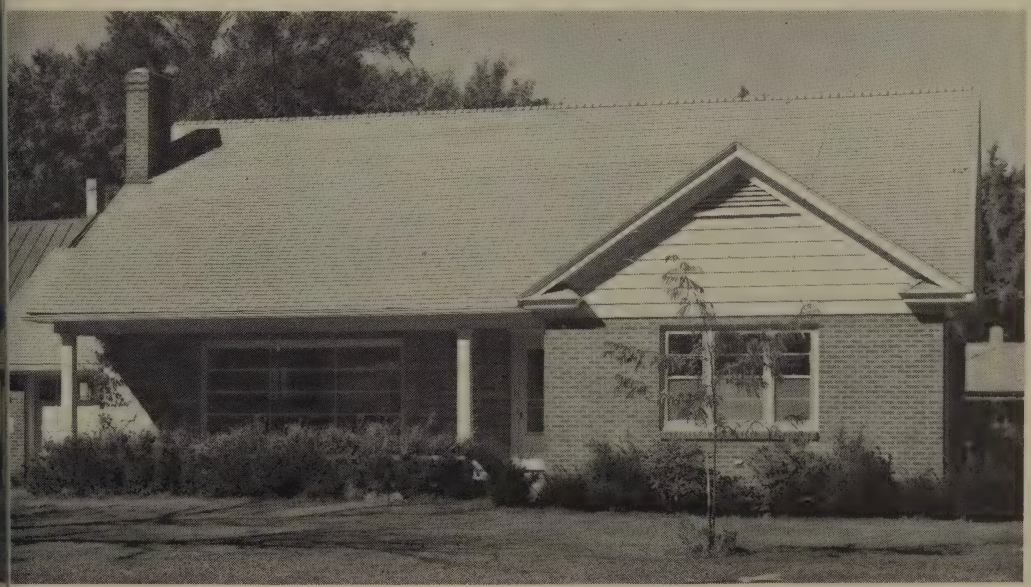
Members of the Congregation who have entered the full-time services of the Church include: Michael Steck, Jonas Mechling, G. W. Mechling, I. O. P. Baker, I. O. Baker, G. Franklin Gehr, D. D., F. E. Strobel, D. D., William Copenhaver, John Yount, Paul L. Yount, D. D., Paul Kunzmann, George Gesler, D. D. S., D. D., Mrs. Anna Johns Gesler, M D., George B. McCreary, D. D., Albert U. Gesler, Ph. D., William C. Hankey, Wallace E. Fisher, Paul B. Blank.

DELMONT, Pennsylvania

SALEM

FOUNDED 1850

This building was erected in 1868 with the entrance remodeled in 1955.



CORRY, Pennsylvania PARSONAGE OF ST. PAUL'S

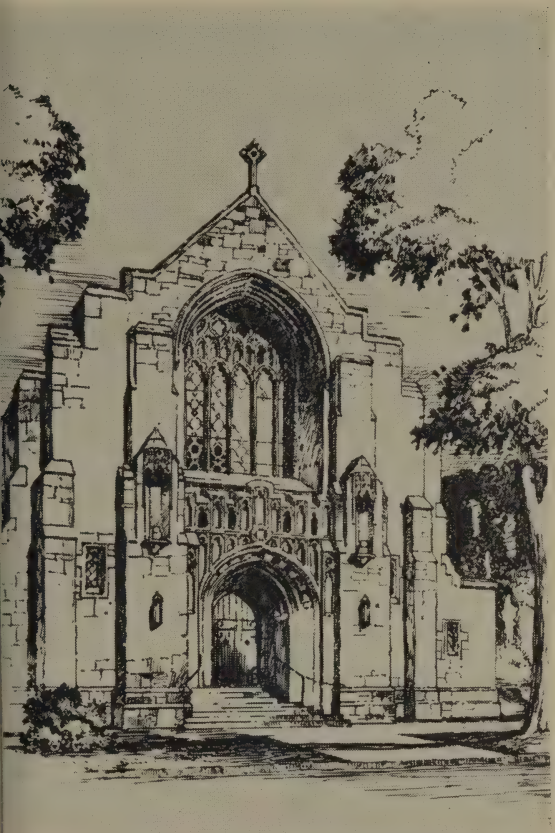
One of the fine modern parsonages erected in the Synod

Chancel

HEBRON

EAST PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania HEBRON

FOUNDED 1903



ERIE, Pennsylvania

LUTHER MEMORIAL

FOUNDED 1861

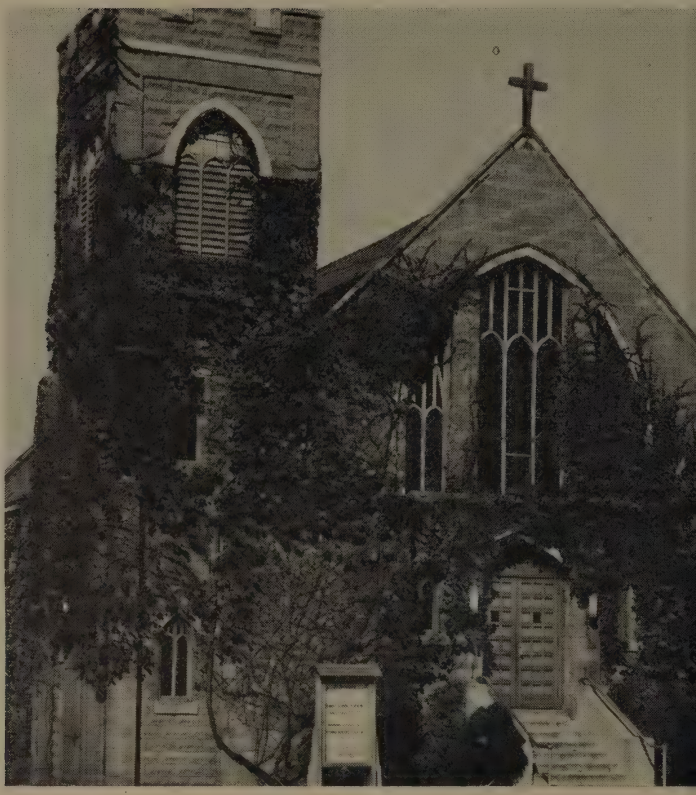
Third Largest
Communing Membership
In The Synod

Plate 11

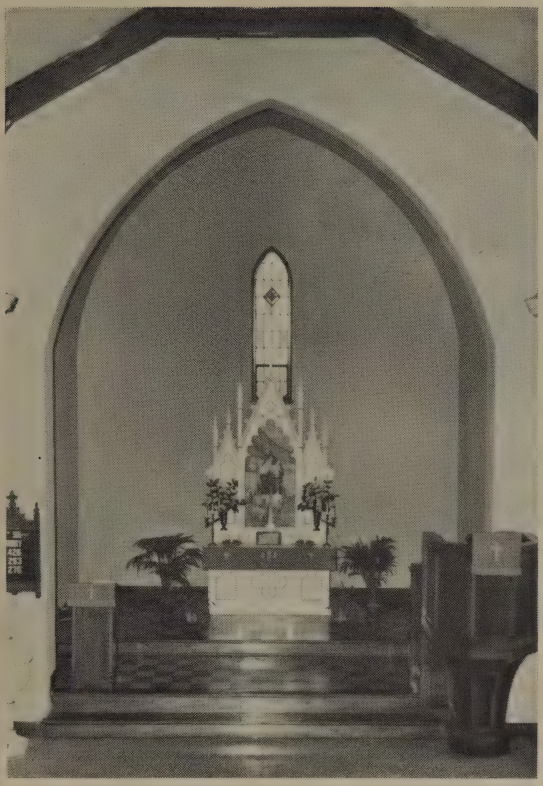
ERIE, Pennsylvania

ST. STEPHEN'S

FOUNDED 1898



ETNA, Pennsylvania
Recently constructed Education Building of Emmanuel
FOUNDED 1900



FARRELL, Pennsylvania

ST. PAUL'S

FOUNDED 1938

Altar and Pulpit
Typify German Origin

EVANS CITY, Pennsylvania

ST. PETER'S

FREEPORT, Pennsylvania — TRINITY

FOUNDED 1800

FREEDOM, Pennsylvania — HOUSE OF MERCY

FOUNDED 1878

Plate 14

GLENFIELD, Pennsylvania

ST. PAUL'S

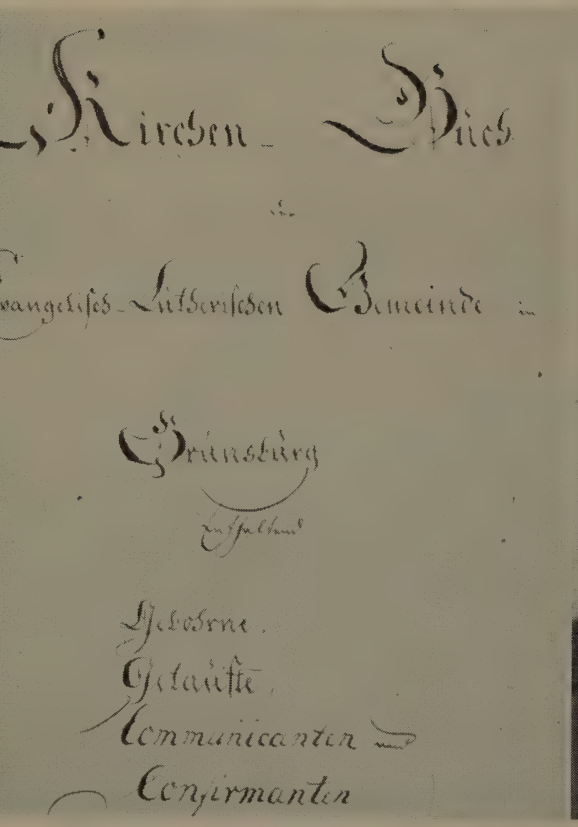
FOUNDED 1863

GLENSHAW, Pennsylvania

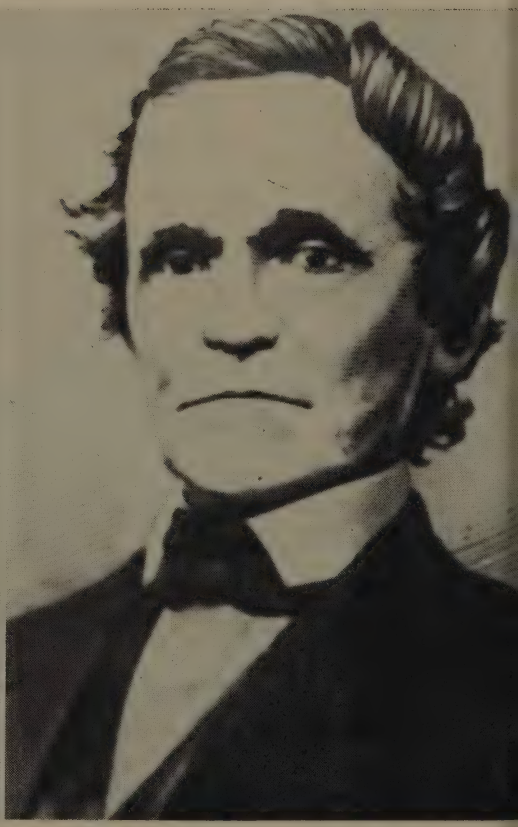
BETHLEHEM

FOUNDED 1930

HISTORIC FIRST CHURCH, GREENSBURG, Pennsylvania
FOUNDED 1784



Early German
Church Book



Rev. Jonas Mechling
Pastor 1848 - 1868

Plate 16

Greensburg Good Shepherd 1957

ON February 1, 1957 Board Missionary Judson H. Westgate began the work of organizing a new congregation on the eastern end of Greensburg. After an extensive round of calling, an initial meeting of interested people was called for 8:00 P. M. on Sunday, March 31. At this meeting a name was chosen for the proposed congregation and a steering committee was appointed.

First services were then planned and held on April 28 at the Todd School with 138 people in attendance. Seventy four people signed the charter roll. Organization was effected November 4, 1957. The first vacation church school was held for one week in August of 1957 with 49 youngsters enrolled in the nursery through the junior departments. The Sunday School, under the direction of Mr. George Beineman, has 78 pupils with six teachers.

The steering committee is presently working with Missionary Superintendent Paul Daugherty and the members of the Board of American Missions to secure church and house chapel sites.

Greensburg (Northmont) St. Matthias' 1957

ON 16 January, 1956, the Rev. David H. Schmid, Board of American Missions Missionary, entered the field to the north of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, beginning development work of enlisting support and prospective members for a Lutheran Mission. On the 27th of February, St. Matthias' Day, the very first meeting of interested people was called together in the North Side Civic Center, Greensburg. Services of worship, using the unaltared form of common worship employed by the United Lutheran Church in America, were begun on April 8, 1956, at the North Side Civic Center building, continuing for five weeks in that location. Having been flooded out of these original quarters during the following week, the group moved to Alwine Community Center, located 4 and one half miles north of Greensburg, and continued regular services of worship and Sunday School sessions each Sunday.

The name St. Matthias' was chosen shortly afterward for the permanent name of the congregation, and the organization committee moved towards plans for official organization of the congregation. The event took place on November 4, 1956, the service being held in Zion's Church, Greensburg, with both Superintendent Paul E. Daugherty and President of Synod, G. Lawrence Himmelmen, participating in the service, the sermon being preached by the pastor's father, the Rev. Herman J. Schmid, S.T.M., of Bethlehem Church in Glenshaw, Penna.

The young congregation was then incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth, and moved toward the acquisition, with the help of Board loans, of a House Chapel, located 3 and one-half miles north of Greensburg, on old Route 66, in plain view of new Route 66, and having been erected on a one acre lot. Services were begun in the new worship quarters on June 23, 1957, the basement of the commodious structure having been altered for use as a worship center, and the various bedrooms and other rooms of the house serving well as classrooms for Sunday School use.

St. Matthias' congregation was received into the Pittsburgh Synod on June 4, 1957, during the current session of Synod, it being noted at the time that it was the first congregation so-named in the United Lutheran Church in America.

Ground for future church-building purposes has been acquired at a location approximately two miles north of Greensburg, on old Route 66, near Maxwell Elementary School, Hempfield Township. The plot is two and three-quarters acres in size, and occupies a position of prominence in the surrounding country side. "Zion stands with hills surrounded" will be true of the future St. Matthias', as the parish is located in the gently rolling and beautiful countryside north of Greensburg, in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County.

Greensburg Zion's 1848

(See Plate 17)

ZION'S was organized January 16, 1848 in response to a demand for more English services in the community. For 66 years the Greensburg pastors had preached the gospel and administered the sacraments almost exclusively in German. Pastor Michael J. Steck, however, was favorably inclined to the introduction of English, but he was compelled to handle the language question carefully because of the strong sentiment for German. At the request of Pastor Steck Rev. John Rugan was called as his assistant in 1847 with the understanding that he should give special attention to English services. These services proved to be highly acceptable to the English members of First Church, but they were sharply opposed by the German element. A meeting of the English members was held in First Church December 5, 1847 at which time it was decided to organize an English Church. Committees were appointed to that end.

The committee on membership consisted of Daniel Welty, Martin B. Hartzel, John Kuhns, Sr., John L. Bierer, Daniel Kistler, Henry Kettering, and Lewis Trauger. The committee on constitution consisted of Pastor John Rugan, A. Rumbaugh, Daniel Welty, and Henry K. Welty.

Again on January 16, 1848 the committee on membership reported that forty people were ready to join the new congregation. This meeting of January 16 was held in the Protestant Episcopal Church, since the German Church refused to sanction the meeting in their building. The document proposed by the committee on constitution was accepted and the forty member group became Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Greensburg. Services were held on alternate Sundays in the Court House until the fall of 1848, when the Presbyterian Church was rented. In the face of the German opposition the building of their own church was no small task. A lot on the corner of Second Street and Pennsylvania Avenue was donated by John Kuhns, Sr., for church purposes, where a plain brick church, 45 x 65, was erected at a cost of $3,300. This church was dedicated by Pastor Michael Eyster, assisted by Dr. W. A. Passavant and Rev. W. S. Emery November 21, 1851.

During its first 28 years Zion's was connected with Adamsburg and other points to form a parish, but it has enjoyed the entire time of a pastor since 1876. The first church building was destroyed by fire March 6, 1877, but the congregation met three days later and determined to rebuild. This fire occurred during a pastoral vacancy and William F. Ulery was recalled for a second pastorate, to lead the congregation in the work of rebuilding. The cornerstone was laid September 24, 1877, and the church dedicated by Dr. Samuel Laird and Pastor Ulery August 2, 1879. Dr. Joseph A. Seiss preached the dedicatory sermon, and no fewer than ten pastors of the Pittsburgh Synod were present. The church was built of brick and stone, with two towers, at a cost of $13,000. The church bell was installed in the tower by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Trauger. During the pastorate of E. G. Lund a large pipe organ was installed as the gift of Lewis Trauger and George F. Huff. During the pastorate of Gomer C. Rees the chancel was refurnished.

The need for expanded facilities was recognized early in the pastorate of A. W. Steinfurth who came to Zion in 1924. Under pastor Steinfurth's direction a building fund was started. When the Rev. J. Paul Harman became pastor in 1932, a three-stage building program was undertaken: On June 14, 1936 ground was broken for a four-story educational unit; on January 16, 1938, which was the 90th anniversary of the congregation, the completely remodeled nave and chancel, together with a new pipe organ, were rededicated; on September 7, 1952 a cornerstone was laid, marking the beginning of the third stage of the building program, the remodeling of the exterior by encasing the old walls of 1877 in a new surface of brick and stone. The present value of this church is estimated at $327,000, and that of the parsonage at $15,000. Zion's Sunday School was organized in 1838, and her aggressive Ladies' Aid Society in 1883.

Five sons of the congregation have entered the ministry of the United Lutheran Church: H. W. Kuhns, 1858; Jonathan Sarver, 1864; George G. Ruff, 1896; Luther D. Miller, 1917; and Robert C. Klingensmith, 1936. One other, Harry H. Droutz, was ordained by the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod in 1944.

During the course of the years there has been a steady increase in the strength of the congregation. In 1955, 1044 confirmed members were reported. Of these 745 were reported as communing.

The following pastors have served Zion through the years: John Rugan, 1848-1849; Michael Eyster, 1849-1853; Milton Valentine, 1854-1855; A. H. Waters (supply), 1855; W. F. Ulery, 1855-1863; Daniel Garver, 1863-1865; J. K. Plitt, 1866-1873; A. H. Bartholemew, 1874-1876; W. F. Ulery (second term), 1877-1884; E. G. Lund, D. D., 1885-1891; G. E. Titzel, 1891-1892; F. W. E. Peschau, D. D., 1893-1900; W. J. Miller, D. D., 1901-1912; E. G. Herman, 1913-1914; G. C. Rees, 1915-1919; R. H. Williams, 1920-1922; C. C. Rasmussen, 1922-1923; A. W. Steinfurth, D. D., 1924-1932; J. Paul Harman, D. D., 1932 —.

Greenville — Holy Trinity — 1865

(See Plates 18 and 19)

ON a day in 1804 a family of German immigrants passed through Greenville on their way to Boardman, Ohio. In that family caravan was a boy, age four, who some fifty years later was to gather the Lutheran people of Greenville into a Christian congregation. This boy's name was Michael Kuchler. Grown to manhood Michael Kuchler was ordained into the gospel ministry by the Ohio Synod in 1827. His whole ministry was spent in churches of western Pennsylvania.

After having served in congregations in Prospect, New Castle, and Erie Michael Kuchler returned to the Shenango Valley to continue his missionary work at Good Hope, Zion, and St. John's. Late in 1859 or early in 1860 he came to Greenville to minister to the Lutherans who had moved into the community. On the twentieth of May, 1860, he administered Holy Communion to thirty two persons whom he had gathered under his care. For the next three years Pastor Michael Kuchler continued to minister to this group at services held in the building known as the West Greenville Academy.

In October 1863, the Rev. William F. Ulery, travelling missionary for the Pittsburgh Synod, visited Greenville for the first time and was impressed with the possibility of establishing a congregation. Accordingly, at the meeting of the Pittsburgh Synod in May, 1864, he recommended that an organized mission be established in Greenville. Through the urgency of President Garver of the Pittsburgh Synod, Pastor Ulery moved to Greenville in November, 1864 to minister to the Lutherans.

The first English service was held on Christmas Day, 1864 in an upper room of the West Greenville Academy.

Services continued from Sunday to Sunday alternately in the German and English languages. The work prospered and on April 15, 1865 a meeting was held at which an English mission was organized in connection with the German work begun by Pastor Kuchler. Ten days later, on April 25, 1865, twelve heads of families joined together to plan and underwrite the cost of a new church building. After investigation of several types of buildings a design was accepted and plans were secured.

The structure was erected on a lot purchased the previous year. The cornerstone was laid on September 25, 1865. The Rev. G. A. Wenzel gave an address in German, while the Rev. W. A. Passavant addressed the congregation in English. Progress was hindered by the lack of funds and by the defection of a group of members. By the end of the year, however, the building was roofed and plastered. Pews were improvised out of nail kegs with planks stretched across them for seats. With these simple furnishings in use the congregation began to hold services in the new red brick church.

Improvements in the organization of the congregation and its facilities for worship were made. On May 4, 1867 the people chose the name Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, adopted a constitution, and drew up a charter listing fourteen members. Funds contributed by members, interested friends, and by the ladies' organization of the church were sufficient to purchase a pulpit, chancel furniture, and carpet.

In October of 1867 the church was sufficiently complete to entertain the Pittsburgh Synod for what was destined to become one of the most historic meetings the Synod ever held. On October 13, the members of Synod participated in the dedication of the building. The events of this historic convention are recorded in the History of the Pittsburgh Synod.

In spite of some unfortunate events, the congregation continued to grow. By 1870 the pastor listed a membership of 167 communicants. Upon his appointment to the faculty of Thiel College, which had been moved to Greenville, Pastor Ulery served the congregation on a part time basis with Rev. Henry Warren Roth and the Rev. David McKee. In April, 1874 Pastor Ulery resigned and Dr. Henry W. Roth became the stated supply. This arrangement was in force until January, 1879 when the Rev. Jeremiah Fishburn was called. A parsonage was purchased in 1880 but was sold again within nine months because of the acute financial situation. In April, 1883 Pastor Fishburn resigned and Dr. H. W. Roth again consented to be the stated supply provided the congregation would wipe out the pressing indebtedness of $1900 within a few months.

Having been extended a call in July, 1883, the Rev. J. A. Kunkelman, D. D., former president of Carthage College, moved to Greenville and entered upon his pastoral duties on September 1, 1883. Many new members were received. A large Sunday School flourished under the stimulation of a unique educational system. Foreign and home mission interest was intensified. A ladies' group which eventually was incorporated into an Aid Society was organized. However, the old hindrance of financial difficulties, coupled with dissatisfaction, caused Dr. Kunkelman to resign in 1894.

In October of the same year, the Rev. William H. Rehrig started his pastorate. After serving under trying conditions, he resigned on January 1, 1898.

With the coming of the Rev. Frank C. Oberly on October 19, 1898, a new era of confidence and progress was begun. The financial system was reorganized,

young people's work was encouraged, and a fine degree of church loyalty was established. When subscriptions to cover the church debt were received, Andrew Carnegie sent a gift of $1,000 with which to help purchase an organ. In 1906 the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized and rapidly developed into a strong auxiliary. Near the close of his pastorate, a new church building movement was started by Pastor Oberly. Some funds were gathered, plans were secured, but the resignation of Pastor Oberly checked the project until a later date.

His successor, Pastor Walter Langhans, who came on August 1, 1913, followed closely the methods of his predecessor and the congregation prospered. The coming of World War I prevented the erection of the planned church. But additional lots adjoining the church were purchased.

This was the situation when Pastor Henderson N. Miller began his pastorate on August 1, 1919. In 1920 three additional lots were purchased. The plan was to build a new church and a separate building alongside the church for a Sunday School. When a campaign in 1920 for $50,000 fell short of the mark, the congregation decided to build only the new Sunday School building which was urgently needed. It was dedicated on May 28, 1922. Three years later the indebtedness was paid off and the congregation made plans for the collection of funds for a new church. Salem congregation was absorbed in September 1927.

In 1930 Pastor Miller was succeeded by the Rev. William E. Eisenberg. The great industrial depression combined with other circumstances to create a situation which called for great consecration and tact. The congregation rallied under the leadership of the pastor and soon effected a strong organiation. Auxiliaries of the congregation were encouraged to establish aims in harmony with the church's purpose. Financial obligations to the Pittsburgh Synod were fulfilled and additions to the congregation's building fund were solicited. In 1938, the Livingston home was remodeled as a parsonage, the first parsonage to be owned by the congregation since 1880.

In August 1939, the Rev. Peter Brath was installed as pastor. In a few months plans were made for a celebration of the congregation's Diamond Jubilee in 1940. A pageant of the years was prepared and produced by Professor Heissenbuttel of Thiel College. The happy spirit developed during this memorable anniversary occasion led to a determination to raise additional funds for a new church building. World War II with its many controls and restrictions hindered the start of the building program. However, the gathering of funds continued. A new parsonage was purchased in 1948 for $15,000.

On September 18, 1949 the last service of divine worship was conducted in the old red brick church, services thereafter being held in the parish house auditorium. The building of a new church was authorized by the congregation at its annual meeting on January 13, 1950. Groundbreaking came on July 31, 1950. The building program was conducted in stages, the first stage coming to completion with the laying of the cornerstone on May 20, 1951. Other portions of the building were erected as funds and materials became available. The dedication of the new church took place on Reformation Sunday, November 1, 1953. At last the congregation had the church building for which it had been planning for forty years.

The following men have served Holy Trinity: W. F. Ulery, 1865-1871; Michael Kuchler, (associate), 1865-1867; Supplies, 1871-1879; Jeremiah Fishburn, 1879-1883; J. A. Kunkelman, D. D., 1883-1894; W. M. Rehrig, Ph. D., 1894-1898; F. C. Oberly, 1898-1913; W. S. Langhans, 1913-1919; H. N. Miller, Ph. D., 1919-1930; W. E. Eisenberg, 1930-1938; P. Brath, D. D., 1939 —.

Grove Chapel Grove Chapel 1873

(See Plate 20)

A Number of the earliest settlers of Rayne Township were Germans from the eastern counties of the state, many of whom were Lutherans. As a rule they attended the services of the Indiana church, being regular communing members of that congregation. About the year 1840 a pastor of the German Reformed began to hold services in the Bookmyer schoolhouse near Dutch Hill; and some of these Germans became interested in the congregation established there. The Lutherans in the southern end of the township, however, continued to attend the Indiana church. As early as 1853 it was the custom of the Indiana church to hold occasional afternoon services for them in Wolf schoolhouse.

Pastor J. P. Hentz organized a congregation in 1863. The minutes of synod, however, do not make any mention of a congregation here until 1875. On June 12, 1872 Mrs. Leah Cooper donated to the congregation a large plot of ground for a parsonage, church and cemetery; and for this reason this church is sometimes called Cooper's church, even in the minutes of the Alleghany Synod.

The cornerstone of the church was laid by Pastor A. C. Ehrenfeld July 17, 1873. Dr. George Scholl preached the dedicatory sermon. The church was a two-story frame building that cost about $4,000. The congregation was incorporated during the pastorate of Rev. P. G. Bell, to whom much credit was given for the development of the church. Pastor Bell was the last of the Indiana pastors to serve this congregation, for after his resignation, October 1, 1882, a new parish consisting of Grove Chapel, St. John's and Bethel, was formed.

Rev. Amos Sell was the first pastor of the new parish. At the beginning of his pastorate a parsonage was built at a cost of $1,099. During the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Hutchison the parish consisted of Grove Chapel, Bethel, St. John's, and Harmony Grove. Services were held every two weeks in each church. From 1893 to 1921 Grove Chapel and Bethel formed the Grove Chapel Parish, and services were provided every Sunday. The general "go to town" movement was not felt in this community as much as in others, and yet it was felt advisable in 1921 to add Cookport and Antioch to the parish. This arrangement continued until August 1, 1923, when Pastor Slifer gave all his time to Grove Chapel and Bethel. In 1946, under Rev. Raymond Agnew, the parish was realigned with Grove Chapel and Harmony Grove to form a parish.

In 1946 the church was beautified with the addition of stained glass windows. This was the second renovation in recent years, the church having been improved at considerable expense in 1937 and 1938 under the direction of Pastor Charles T. Schlotter. At that time two craftsmen of the congregation, Samuel Wolfe and John H. Condron, had built the altar, clergy stalls, pulpit and lectern.

Growth in population has been moderate. The personnel of the congregation has almost completely changed in the past 35 years. Few of the earlier families are now represented on the rolls.

Pastors who have served this church are: J. P. Hentz, 1863-1864; A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1865-1875; C. T. Steck, 1876-1878; P. G. Bell, 1878-1882; Amos Sell, 1884-1885; Reuben Smith, 1886-1890; Student John J. Hill (supply), 1890; J. W. Hutchison, 1890-1892; John Tomlinson, 1893-1899; J. M. Axe, 1900-1903; J. K. Hilty, 1904-1906; S. A. Shaulis, 1908-1909; J. M. Stover, 1909-1911; P. J. Tau, 1911-1915; H. H. Flick, Sr., 1917-1920; L. W. Slifer, 1921-1925; E. B. Hanks, 1926-1929; C. F. Hildebrand, 1930-1936; C. T. Schlotter, 1936-1942; H. W. Pfeifer, 1942-1943; R. E. Agnew, 1944-1947; R. K. Weber, 1948-1954; W. C. Herron, 1954; R. S. Shultz, 1955 —.

Grove Chapel Harmony Grove 1870

IN the fall of 1869 Pastor Jacob H. Wright of Elderton Parish began to hold services for the Lutherans living in the vicinity of Marlin's Mill. He organized them into a congregation September 4, 1870.

In a few weeks the membership of the new congregation was increased to twenty seven. Services were held in a schoolhouse until November 14, 1880, when their church was dedicated by Pastor Wright. This church was built of frame at a cost of $1,100, and with ordinary repairs served the congregation until March 30, 1952. It was located near a point where five roads meet, and for that reason was often called Five Points Church. The church was dedicated free of debt.

Early in 1944 the congregation established a building fund for the purpose of repairing the church when the war was over. Before the year ended the congregation abandoned the purpose of repairing in favor of building a new church. By the Summer of 1951 the building fund had reached $24,000. Under the vigorous leadership of the Rev. Reinhold K. Weber, pastor, ground was broken for the new church on a lot donated by Dale Sprankle, and located between Willet and Five Points. The beautifully appointed red brick church was completed early in 1952 and dedicated on March 30th of that year.

Dignitaries of the Synod and the East Conference participated in the service at which some 625 people were in attendance. The cost of construction was greatly reduced through the personal handwork of the pastor and many members of the congregation, so that the building far too conservatively valued at $50,000 was erected at a cost of about $35,000. At the time of dedication the indebtedness was only $7,000, and by October, 1955 this indebtedness was removed.

This congregation is one of the most properous rural churches of Indiana County, and yet has been built up of people, many of whom had little previous knowledge of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The community spirit is strong and the great majority of families living in the little valley are regular attendants at its services. The parsonage, erected during the pastorate of Rev. M. L. Schmucker was sold in 1946 and the proceeds applied to the church building fund.

The following pastors have served the congregation: J. H. Wright, 1870-1888; J. W. Hutchison, 1888-1896; M. L. Schmucker, 1897-1908; D. W. Lecrone, 1908-1912; G. O. Ritter, 1913-1915; E. F. Dickey, 1917-1920; J. E. MacDonald, 1920-1925; Supplies, 1925-1927; C. E. Held, 1927-1929; J. M. Nycum, 1930-1931; F. Stueber, 1932-1938; J. B. Troutman, 1939-1946; R. Agnew, 1946-1947; F. Snyder, R. E. Smith, (supplies), 1947-1948; R. K. Weber, 1948-1954; W. Herron, 1954; R. S. Shultz, 1955 —.

Harrison City (Bouquet) St. John's 1808

THE town in which the present St. John's Church is located was named in honor of the intrepid British officer, Colonel Henry Bouquet, who inflicted a decisive defeat upon the red warriors of Pontiac at Bushy Run, August 5-6, 1763. One of his trusted scouts was Andrew Byerly, a Pennsylvania German, who settled in the community in 1759. This was nine years in advance of the formal purchase of the land from its rightful owners; and he consequently had many narrow escapes from the angry Indians.

Between the year 1769 and the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, many other Pennsylvania Germans settled in this vicinity. Almost without exception, these people belonged to either the Reformed or Lutheran Church; and their descendants are found in many of the Lutheran congregations of western Pennsylvania. For the most part they came from Northampton, York, and Cumberland counties in eastern Pennsylvania, although it is probable that they were not long in America before they found permanent homes in the Manor valley. This entire district owes its name to the original proprietaries of the state. It was a reservation of the Penns, known as Denmark Manor, and contained 4,861 acres of Penn Township lands.

At the time of the Revolution, title to all this land was taken over by the state. For forty years after the opening of the settlement, all these Germans attended at Harold's or Brush Creek. They built a log schoolhouse, in which they supported a German schoolmaster until an efficient public school system was devised. In this schoolhouse occasional services were held by neighboring pastors; but the people considered it no hardship to travel to Brush Creek (6 miles) in order to attend divine service. So no one thought of erecting a church in the Manor.

A local organization of some kind may have been effected in 1808, although no official record of it was ever made. Such an organization would naturally be quite informal. Two treasurers would be appointed by a few representative men, one to act for the Reformed and another for the Lutherans. Then an article of agreement would be written defining the rights of both parties in the church property; and, when this agreement was signed by men of both sides, the organization would be considered complete. Years later a constitution would be adopted, but it is not just to say that the date of adopting the constitution is the true date of organization. The congregation functioned harmoniously long before they had a constitution.

The first step toward building a church in the Manor was made in December of 1809, when Paul Neighley, Adam Kemerer, and Christian Eberhardt were appointed as the building committee. Jacob Brinker was treasurer for the Reformed, and Michael Fink for the Lutherans. Instead of building a log church according to the custom of that day, they determined to build of brick; but this meant greater expense and time. At first they thought they could raise the money by the use of a lottery, but the state effectively vetoed that proposition. This rebuff probably accounts for the fact that building operations were not begun until May 15, 1811.

The committee furnished all materials and also boarding for the workmen. The cornerstone was laid with appropriate services, June 3, by the pastors, Revs. J. M. Steck and J. W. Weber. The offerings on this occation were $99.08. Jacob Dry was the contractor for the carpenter work as well as painting, for which he was paid $600. All materials were furnished him by the committee, as well as a dwelling house during the time that he was engaged in the work. His work was begun, May 12, 1814, and was fully completed June 7, 1815, when the church was solemnly set apart to the worship of God. The services on this occasion were conducted by the

two pastors, Revs. Steck and Weber. The church grounds had been owned by Conrad Knappenberger and Jacob Brinker, from whom two acres were purchased as a site for the church and burying ground, and, later, more ground was secured from Paul Brinker and Joseph Lauffer. This now constitutes the Union Manor cemetery.

The first pastor was Rev. John M. Steck, who served until his death July 14, 1830; the second pastor was Rev. Michael Steck, who served until his death September 1, 1848; the third pastor was Jonas Mechling, who likewise served until death, April 2, 1868. During all these years the services were conducted almost entirely in German. After the death of Pastor Mechling his immense field was divided, and Manor and Brush Creek were constituted as a parish.

This congregation was then served by the following pastors: J. S. Fink, 1868-1874; J. A. Scheffer, 1875-1876; Enoch Smith, 1876-1877; W. F. Ulery, 1877-1878; V. B. Christy, 1879-1880; J. D. Roth, 1880-1882; J. W. Myers, 1882-1886; C. L. Holloway, 1886-1891.

During the latter part of this period, the congregation was connected with Delmont Parish. When Rev. C. L. Holloway became Pastor he found the Lutherans and Reformed worshipping together in the old Manor Church of 1815. The people, however, were ready for a friendly separation; and the proposition of the Reformed to pay the Lutherans $1,000 for their interest in the property was accepted.

The congregation was now divided on the question of a new location. One party wanted to build near the old site; another proposed to relocate in the town of Bouquet, about a mile distant. The matter was appealed to the Conference, which decided in favor of the Bouquet site. A lot was then purchased from John Keppel, and a substantial frame church was erected at a cost of $5,253. This church was dedicated as "St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church" January 20, 1889, when Pastor Holloway was assisted by Doctor J. C. Kunzmann, Rev. A. D. Potts, and Rev. Charles S. Seaman.

In the meantime the dissatisfied party, who wished to rebuild near the old site, appealed to a General Synod pastor, Rev. Jacob H. Wright, who reorganized them into a congregation of ninety members. This congregation at once secured a charter from the court of Westmoreland County, under the name, style and title of "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark Manor"; and also a decision from the same court instructing the Reformed Church to give them the $1,000 separation money. From 1888 to 1899 they were served by Pastor Wright as an independent church. From 1900 to 1912 the congregation belonged to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod, and was served by the following pastors: H. C. Michael, 1900-1904; W. L. Heuser, 1904-1905; George O. Ritter, 1906-1917.

The congregation, unable to make satisfactory headway, disposed of its property and disbanded September 18, 1912. At the time of the disbandment, there were 31 members in the congregation, who were counselled to unite with St. Mark's in Jeannette. At the time of the division of 1888, St. John's had a membership of 140; and it has remained about the same ever since. There were many accessions, but these were equalled by deaths and removals.

Though in the past years there has been a gradual growth as all congregations are experiencing. Since the resignation of Pastor Holloway, it has generally been connected with Zion's of Harrison City.

In 1956, a new parsonage was built next to the church on land purchased by the congregation from Earl Watt. The structure was built almost entirely by the members of the congregation. The other parsonage was owned by the Harrison City Church.

Pastors who have served since 1891 are: R. M. Zimmerman, 1891-1893; George J. Diener, 1894-1901; L. O. Pearch, 1901-1905; John Shunk, 1905-1907; E. H. Daugherty, 1907-1909; R. M. Zimmerman (second term), 1910-1915; J. A. Frischkorn, 1916-1918; Nathanael Scheffer, 1919-1920; G. L. Courtney, 1921-1922; W. E. Bauer, 1923-1954 (elected Pastor Emeritus on retirement in 1954); D. R. Himmelman, 1955 —.

Harrison City — Zion's — 1887

THE founding of this church was due to Pastor Charles S. Seaman of Brush Creek Parish and Pastor C. L. Holloway of the Delmont Parish, each having parishioners living in the community. Services were held here by both pastors when requested. The congregation was organized by Pastor Seaman March 13, 1887, with fifty charter members.

The founder of the congregation did not become the regular pastor until June, 1888. A lot was bought and plans for the building of a church were made. The cornerstone was laid September 24, 1887, and the church dedicated by Pastor Seaman June 10, 1888. It was a frame church, 40 x 60, with basement and belfry, and cost $3,500. Pastor Seaman served the church until September 7, 1889, when he died of typhoid fever.

From 1889 to 1893 the church was served by Pastor R. M. Zimmerman as a part of Jeannette Parish. Zion's and St. John's, Bouquet, then united to form a parish. Rev. George J. Diener was called as pastor, and served from 1894 to 1903. For the last two years of this pastorate Pastor Diener served Zion's Church alone. The two churches again entered into parish relations, and have remained together to the present.

A list of the Pastorates is as follows: C. S. Seaman, 1887-1889; R. M. Zimmerman, 1889-1893; G. J. Diener, 1894-1903; John Shunk, 1905-1907; E. H. Daugherty, 1907-1909; R. M. Zimmerman (second term), 1910-1915; J. A. Frischkorn, 1916-1918; Nathanael Scheffer, 1919-1920; G. L. Courtney, 1921-1922; W. E. Bauer, 1923-1954 (elected Pastor Emeritus); D. R. Himmelman, 1955 —.

THE history of the two congregations formerly known as the Old Zion and the Hempfield Zion churches of Hempfield Township reaches so far into the past that it is difficult to trace its beginnings. In 1758 all the land now included in the Westmoreland County was the property of the Iroquois. By 1759 a few men were bold enough to settle on this forbidden land. Among those who seized lands in Hempfield Township was John Herold. In 1765 158 acres were pre-empted for the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the area known as "Good Purpose". This is the only record of land being secured for Lutherans alone without reference to the Reformed in Western Pennsylvania.

In November of 1768, a treaty with the Iroquois opened the area for settlement. By April 3, 1769, there was a great influx of settlers and within a short time about 70 German families, a majority of whom were Lutheran, settled in this vicinity. Against the many obstacles which arose in those dangerous and daring days, the settlers soon cleared the land for cultivation. The massacre of the Heinrich and Klingenschmidt families reveals the hardships which faced the early settlers.

One of the points of safety to which endangered families could go was Fort Allen, located near the Old Zion Church. From this Fort a petition went out to the Governor of the land for more adequate military protection. After 1794, when General Wayne defeated the Indians in Ohio, permanent peace was established. As soon as the settlers had built family homes for their families, probably as early as 1770, they built a log schoolhouse on the church land, which served the double purpose of church and school.

This old schoolhouse, the first in Hempfield Township and one of the first in Westmoreland County, was located about 400 yards from the present Fort Allen Elementary School. It had one door and one window with greased paper for window lights.

About this time Balthazar Meyer became schoolmaster. He proved to be a strong leader. He called the people together for worship, reading an approved Gospel sermon and leading in the singing of hymns of the Fatherland. These religious services of 1770 may reasonably be regarded as the beginning of Zion Church. Organization was not complicated, so long as there was a schoolmaster to teach the children, and serve as an elder, and a treasurer to pay the few necessary bills. This was all the organization needed. In this manner Zion Church was born.

On August 2, 1772, at the request of the congregation, Balthazar opened the Church Record of "Zion's Settlement", in which he wrote all the names of children brought for Baptism. The first Baptism was that of Christian Frederick Kuemmel, born January 8, 1772, Baptized February 1, 1772. A noteworthy fact connected with the list of Baptisms is that no child was born earlier than February 6, 1769, supporting the claim that only a few pioneer families were brought over the mountains before the Spring of 1759. All these baptisms are entered in the handwriting of Balthazar Meyer up to June 4, 1792, when he moved to Brush Creek; but in 1784 the insertion of a new heading "Record of such Children as were baptized in Zion's Church in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, in the State of Pennsylvania by the Reverend Preachers", indicates the arrival of the first Pastor.

The first pastor was Rev. Anton Ulrich Luetge, who came to the settlement in 1782. Because he was educated at Halle in preparation for the foreign field, he was urged by the schoolmaster to preach for Zion Church. His services were so acceptable that the people asked him to become their regular pastor. He declined on

the ground that he was not ordained; but the schoolmaster persuaded him, that it was within the power of an Evangelical Lutheran Church under the stress of a great emergency, to ordain her own pastors. He therefore accepted ordination at the hands of Balthazar Meyer in the presence of the schoolhouse congregation in 1784.

In 1785 Pastor Luetge appeared before the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and asked to be received as an ordained minister, but that body resolved that "it could have nothing further to do with him". Undaunted by this rebuff, he renewed his request in 1788, when the Ministerium consented to give him a license to preach and baptize, provided he would improve his knowledge of Greek, keep a diary of his official acts and present to the Ministerium testimonials of the elders and deacons of the congregations to which he preached. This license was renewed annually but he was never ordained. It was during his pastorate that the first log church was completed. Having been hindered in building because of Indian trouble, young saplings grew up through the floor, so that the ground had to be cleared a second time.

The church was much larger than the school building but had only one door and the floor was of puncheon, the seats were made of hewn logs, the altar was a rough table, and the high pulpit, still intact today, was made after the wineglass pattern. "The windows were often broken, and squirrels would have free access to the house of worship and were seen sporting about and diverting themselves and the younger part of the congregation during the hours of service."

In order to provide funds for the completion of this log church, 100 acres of the church land was sold to the Rev. Luetge for 60 pounds. In order to give a deed, a special act of Assembly was passed in 1801. Pastor Luetge served the congregation until the Summer of 1789, when he accepted a call to churches in the Cumberland Valley.

His successor was the Rev. John Michael Steck. He began his work in September, 1791, and continued until death, in 1830. In September, 1791, a compact was signed by representatives of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations specifying their rights and privileges. This compact permitted each congregation to elect its own elders, to select and dismiss its own pastors, prohibited the individual members of either congregation from introducing strange preachers without the consent of their elders, required the pastors of both congregations to baptize all such children as might be presented to them, without distinction of religion, except where objections were made by the elders, provided for the election of a schoolmaster by the elders of the two congregations, and required this schoolmaster to instruct the children in the doctrines of either the Heidelberg or Luther catechism, as their parents might choose. The terms of this compact were faithfully kept by both congregations for more than a century. On the day that his organization was effected September 24, 1791, the Lutherans agreed to give the Reformed a half-interest in the 58 acres which remained of their original church farm.

The first recorded Communion service conducted by Pastor Steck was October 11, 1791, when 80 persons received the Sacrament. The number greatly increased in the next two years and Lutherans from all parts of the County were pleased to visit Zion on such occasions. From October 11, 1793 to April 20, 1794, no less than 355 names are found on the Communion list of this congregation.

The first confirmation class was "confirmed and blessed" by Pastor Steck May 26, 1792, consisting of 43 young people ranging in age from 14 to 19. Near the close of his pastorate the Stone Church of the congregation was erected at a cost of $3000. The cornerstone was laid May 28, 1829, and the church dedicated in 1830.

This church was a large square stone building with a gallery on three sides. There was a large altar painted white in the center of the chancel space, behind which was the high wineglass pulpit with steps leading up to it.

Upon his death, his son, Pastor Michael John Steck, became pastor. He participated in the organization of the Pittsburgh Synod in 1845, and became the first president. His successor was Pastor Jonas Mechling (1849-1868) who remained in the fellowship of the Ohio Synod. The next pastor was the Rev. George A. Bruegel, (1868-1872), who put out the hymn book of the General Synod and introduced the church book of the General Council. This act was the first step in the division.

The next pastor was the Rev. Enoch Smith, who secured the adoption of a new constitution, which led to more serious trouble. While the constitution was fairly adopted, it was objectionable to so many that a congregational meeting was called March 10, 1877, to determine whether it should stand. The vote was 46-26 against the constitution, but the pastor ruled correctly that a two-thirds vote was necessary to rescind, and the constitution was sustained. This ruling led to his resignation April 23, 1877, but he continued to preach for some time for the supporters of the new constitution in the schoolhouse. Pastor W. F. Ulery supplied the church (1877-1880) but the storm continued because of the objectionable constitution. On April 30, 1880, nine days before Pastor Ulery's resignation went into effect, the Council appealed to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod for a pastor.

A meeting was held October 2, 1880, at which it was decided to join the General Synod. On October 18, 1880, that part of the congregation upholding the constitution of 1877, began legal proceedings to oust the General Synod party from the church. Judge Hunter, of the Westmoreland County court, decided in favor of the General Council congregation; but his decision was reversed by Judge Sharswood of the Supreme Court, who awarded the property to the General Synod party. Pastor Ulery claimed that this revision was due to the fact that the General Council party failed to make a complete statement to the Supreme Court. The General Council congregation then rallied under the leadership of Pastor J. C. Kunzmann, secured a new building site on the original church farm, and built a brick church at a cost of $8000. This church was dedicated June 14, 1885. The General Synod congregation continued to worship in the old church until July 6, 1884, when they dedicated a new church on the Daniel Altman farm about one-half mile to the West. A parsonage lot was bought for $1000, and the cost of the new church was about $10,000. Their interest in the old church property was sold to the Reformed for $2000.

Following is the list of pastors over the years since the division up to the merger of 1955: Lower Zion — Supplies, 1880-1882; J. C. Kunzmann, D. D., 1882-1887; W. H. Zuber, 1887-1894; Jonathan Sarver, D. D., 1895-1903; Joshua A. Yount, 1904; J. O. Glenn, 1904-1910; E. H. Kohn, 1911-1913; Isaac K. Wismer, 1913-1922; Supplies, 1922-1923; F. L. Will, 1923-1925; A. F. Schilling, 1926-1942; F. B. Haer, 1942-1948; W. D. Guss, 1948-1953; R. K. Weber, 1954-1955. Hill Church — A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1880-1882; Peter G. Bell, 1882-1883; Isaiah Irvine, 1884-1887; Jacob Wright, 1888-1897; C. L. Streamer, 1897-1903; J. E. F. Hassinger, 1903-1912; L. M. Daubenspeck, 1912-1913; Elmer Kahl, 1913-1918; G. L. Courtney, 1918-1921; J. L. Marvin, 1921-1926; H. O. Harner, 1926-1941; Arthur Blank, 1941-1945; Roy Shultz, 1946-1955.

The congregations of the Zion Hempfield area grew over the years, carrying on the important work of preaching the Gospel. Important items in the history of both

congregations over the years since the division are noted briefly: Since 1887, Old Zion was affiliated with the St. Paul's, Seanor congregation as a Parish, while Hempfield Zion was affiliated with the St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Arona, as a Parish, working together in harmony, but because of distances, not able to be together too often as parish groups. Old Zion grew over the years to a sizeable congregation, and at the time of the merger, Old Zion consisted of 321 communing members, while Hempfield Zion had 70 communing members. Old Zion purchased a 12 stop Moller organ in 1926 under the pastorate of the Rev. A. Schilling, which greatly enhanced the worship services in a congregation known far and wide for excellent choirs. An addition to the Old Zion church was built in 1931, which added a Primary and Junior department and kitchen facilities, much needed for the growing Sunday School. The parsonage, located for many years at New Stanton, was sold, and a fine brick parsonage was purchased on Route 71, near the Harrold Schools in 1948. An addition, consisting of a garage, study, powder room was built in 1949 under the pastorate of Rev. Walter Guss. Preliminary work in regard to the new parsonage is credited to the Rev. F. B. Haer.

At Hempfield Zion, a fine heating system was installed in the church in 1954, adding much to the beautifully renovated nave and chancel improvements. At Old Zion, the painting of the church and laying of new carpet in 1954 at a cost of about $3000, added much to the beauty of the church. Through an unusual gift to the church, a three-manual Moller organ was installed in the Intermediate Department for use by all organizations and during Sunday School.

Following the resignation of the pastor at Hempfield Zion church in 1955, the Council of the Hempfield church requested the President of Synod to explore the possibility of a merger with Old Zion Church at a meeting on March 20, 1955. Thoughtful consideration was given this proposal in which all four churches of the two parishes entered over many months. During this time complete reports were given to the congregations concerning the investigation, and on July 3, 1955, Hempfield Zion congregation voted more than two-thirds in favor of such a merger. This vote taken under consideration, a meeting of the Old Zion congregation held on July 24, 1955, resulted in a more than two-thirds vote in favor of the merger. Under the fine leadership of Dr. G. L. Himmelman, President of Synod, further details of the merger were worked out, so that Pastor Weber resigned from the Harrold-Seanor Parish to consider a call extended by the merger, effective September 4, which was accepted that day by Old Zion and St. Paul's, Seanor.

Pastor Weber accepted the call of the merged congregations, and was installed in October, 1955, as the first Pastor of the merged Old Zion-Hempfield Zion congregations, which voted on October 16, 1955, to be called the "Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church". The congregation at the present time numbers 833 baptized members, 553 confirmed members and 421 communing members, in an area which is rapidly growing in the number of homes, and is located near the fine Hempfield Township Elementary, Junior High and Senior High Schools. A splendid spirit exists as these two historic congregations have now fulfilled the hope of many generations, to become one church, witnessing in united and faithful work for Christ.

Homer City Brush Valley 1819

BRUSH VALLEY is one of the two oldest Lutheran congregations in Indiana county. The Brush Valley settlement was made about the same time as that of Indiana. The two settlements were closely related and Brush Valley pioneers thought it no hardship to journey to the home of Conrad Reis at Indiana four times a year to attend services conducted by Pastor John M. Steck.

When Rev. J. G. Lamprecht came to Indiana as an independent preacher in 1813, he began to hold services in Brush Valley, chiefly at the home of Peter Frey. From 1819 to 1821 they were visited regularly by Wilhelm Schulze of Johnstown, and it is to him that the organization is usually credited, since the first log church was built in 1820 or 1821. This was the first church built by the Lutherans of this county and was generally know as "Frey's Meeting House." The deed for the church ground was dated January 26, 1822 which would indicate that there was a provisional organization before the coming of Pastor G. A. Reichert.

This pastor visited the settlement for the first time in the summer of 1822, serving as a travelling missionary of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. When he became pastor of Indiana, Brush Valley was one of his regular appointments. His first class of catechumens of the Brush Valley Church was confirmed January 11, 1823. The congregation was fully organized by Pastor Reichert November 1, 1822.

The confirmation of forty-four young people at one time is an evidence of the deep spiritual life of the pioneers. These pioneer pastors were essentially teachers rather than preachers. In this way they laid the strong foundation of their churches.

At this time Brush Valley was the strongest in the great parish of Pastor Reichert, but it must be remembered that the German pioneers travelled many miles in order to receive the sacrament in the language dear to their hearts. Pastor Reichert conducted all services in German, but his immediate successor introduced English. In less than fifty years all the German had been eliminated.

During the pastorate of Rev. Henry Bishop a frame church, 40 x 50, was erected in the old graveyard, a short distance east of the present church. It was dedicated by Pastor Bishop in 1845. The third church was dedicated by Pastor M. O. T. Sahm October 15, 1882. The cost of this church was $1,160.

There has through the years been a steady decline in the membership of this historic church. This is because of the removal of many people from the farms to the city. In 1957 the communing membership was 16. For a number of years this congregation was linked with Strongtown, but since 1922 it has been a part of the Homer City Parish.

The following pastors have served the church through its many years: William Schulze, 1819-1821; G. A. Reichert, 1822-1826; N. G. Scharretts, 1827-1836; John Brown (supply), 1837; Jacob Medtart, 1838-1842; David Adam, 1842-1844; Henry Bishop, 1844-1849; C. J. Deininger, 1850-1852; Peter Sahm, D. D., 1853-1858; W. S. Emery, 1858-1861; Henry Gathers (supply), 1861-1862; G. M. Settlemyer, 1862-1866; G. F. Ehrenfeld (supply), 1866-1868; S. P. Snyder, 1869-1874; L. B. Crist, 1874-1875; A. W. McCullough, 1876-1878; B. W. Tomlinson (supply), 1878; M. O. T. Sahm (supply), 1878-1882; W. E. Crebs, 1883-1884; J. W. Reese, 1885-1889; J. W. Shaeffer, 1889-1891; W. G. Slonaker (supply), 1892; S. V. Dye, 1893-1896; J. M. Hankey (supply), 1896-1897; S. A. Shaulis (supply), 1898; J. M. Snyder, 1899-1905; C. H. Day, 1908-1909; P. J. Tau, 1910-1911; J. A. Howe, 1912-1914; Supplies, 1914-1922; E. L. Ritchie, 1922-1929; Charles E. Held, 1929-1938; C. Thornton Hays, 1938-1942; Charles Schindler, 1942-1948; Martin L. Yount, 1948-1953; James F. Cook, 1954 —.

Homer City Luther Chapel 1846

THE Rev. Nicholas G. Scharretts began to hold services in Black Lick schoolhouse, about one mile below Coral for the special benefit of a number of members of the Blairsville congregation who lived in that vicinity. This was about 1828. These services were held with more or less regularity by Pastor Scharretts and his successors in the parish until January 15, 1846, when they were organized into a congregation by Dr. Peter Sahm. The church had twenty six charter members.

A building committee was appointed in 1850, and this committee bought a lot from Daniel Altemus and John Peddicord on March 13, 1850 for five dollars. Upon this lot a brick church 35 x 50 was erected at a cost of $2,500 and dedicated early in March, 1852. The church was served by the Blairsville pastors until May 19, 1878. Since that time it has been a part of the Homer City Parish.

The congregation has remained small. In 1957 there were sixty four communing members.

The following pastors served the congregation through the years: Peter Sahm, D. D., 1846-1848; A. B. Bosserman, 1848-1852; G. M. Pile, 1852; William Kopp, 1853; J. J. Suman, 1853-1858; Cornelius Nitterauer, 1858-1861; Henry Reck, 1861; Samuel Aughey, 1861-1863; J. R. Williams, 1863-1867; S. P. Snyder, 1867-1869; Augustus Babb, D. D., 1870-1875; C. L. Streamer, 1876-1878; C. T. Steck, 1878-1882; W. E. Crebbs, 1883-1884; J. W. Reese, 1885-1889; J. W. Shaeffer, 1889-1897; G. L. Courtney, 1898-1900; J. W. Shaeffer (second term), 1900-1919; P. J. C. Glatzert, 1920-1921; E. L. Ritchie, 1922-1929; Charles E. Held, 1929-1938; C. Thornton Hays, 1938-1942; Charles Schindler, 1942-1948; Martin L. Yount, 1948-1953; James F. Cook, 1954 —.

Homer City Trinity 1871

DR. R. A. Fink organized this church on February 21, 1871 with twenty-eight members. Most of the charter members came from Luther Chapel. They were made a part of the Brush Valley Parish and taken under the care of Rev. Simon P. Snyder. Upon his resignation in April, 1874 the church was received into the Blairsville Parish. It was then served by Dr. Augustus Babb until October 1, 1875.

Soon after the organization of the congregation a lot was secured and a frame church was erected at a cost of $3,000. This church was dedicated by Pastor Snyder on October 6, 1872.

In the spring of 1910 a chancel recess was built in the church which greatly improved its churchly appearance. Other repairs were made at the same time at a cost of several hundred dollars. A rededication service was held July 24, 1910. In the summer of 1923, during the pastorate of Rev. E. L. Ritchie, new pews and chancel furniture were secured at a cost of $2,000. These were a great aid to the historic Lutheran service. During the same year a new parsonage was built at a cost of $6,400, and the old parsonage which stood next to the church was sold.

Through the years the church has not grown to any great extent. In 1957 the communing membership stood at 137. The baptized membership is 430.

The pastors who have served this church are: S. P. Snyder, 1871-1874; Augustus Babb, D. D., 1874-1875; C. L. Streamer, 1876-1878; C. T. Steck, 1878-1882; W. E. Crebbs, 1883-1884; J. W. Reese, 1885-1889; J. W. Shaeffer, 1889-1897; G. L. Courtney, 1898-1900; J. W. Shaeffer (second term), 1900-1919; P. J. C. Glatzert, 1920-1921; E. L. Ritchie, 1922-1929; Charles E. Held, 1929-1938; C. Thornton Hays, 1938-1942; Charles Schindler, 1942-1948; Martin L. Yount, 1948-1953; James F. Cook, 1954 —.

Homestead St. John's 1874

THIS is the oldest Protestant Church in Homestead, having been organized by Pastor J. K. Melhorn, with twenty charter members, as a mission of the Pittsburgh Synod, General Council, on January 13, 1874, six years before the town was incorporated as a borough. Nine months after its organization its first church building was erected and dedicated by Pastor Melhorn, who continued to serve as its part time pastor until 1887. With services being held only on alternate Sunday afternoons, Pastor Melhorn serving the mission in connection with his resident pastorate at Grace Church, South Side, Pittsburgh, the development of the parish was necessarily slow.

In 1887, St. John's was formed into a new parish with Trinity Church of Braddock and St. John's Church of McKeesport, the Rev. Elmer F. Krauss called to serve this new parish. It proved impossible for one man adequately to serve these three mission congregations, so that in 1889 this arrangement was discontinued, and Pastor Krauss was released to serve only the Homestead congregation. Under his leadership a parsonage was erected on the church lot, and St. John's had its first resident pastor, with regular Sunday morning services, and a strong Sunday School. The mission became a self-supporting congregation in 1900.

Anticipating future growth, the congregation purchased a more suitable lot for the location of a new church building in 1903. Lack of funds, however, prevented an immediate start on the building program. The original church property was sold in 1914, and, under the leadership of Pastor E. L. T. Engers, ground was broken in 1916 for the new church. Its cornerstone was laid on July 1, 1917. The parsonage was completed first, and then the basement of the church, in which services were held for the next two years because of building restrictions brought about by World War I. The church was finally completed and dedicated on September 14, 1919.

In the two decades that followed the congregation faced trying times. During this period several attempts were made to effect a merger with the Messiah Lutheran Church of Homestead, none of which were successful. The recession after World War 1, and the depression after 1929, made it difficult to meet the heavy financial obligation incurred by the building program. To Dr. Seiberling, who served two pastorates in the congregation, 1921-1925 and 1928-1937, the credit must be given for holding the parish together during this critical time. It was not until 1942, under the leadership of Pastor W. Blair Claney, that the indebtedness was paid off in full. During his pastorate the church interior was extensively remodeled, and a new pipe organ was installed.

St. John's celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in October of 1949. The congregation has prospered greatly in recent years, both spiritually and materially. It reported a membership in 1955 of 539 confirmed members, a growing Sunday School, and

active organizations for men, women, and young people. In 1955 its parsonage was completely renovated and modernized.

St. John's has been served by the following pastors: J. K. Melhorn, 1874-1887; E. F. Krauss, D. D., 1887-1892; J. W. Myers, 1893-1896; G. S. Seaman, 1896-1904; J. A. Yount, 1904-1906; G. L. Rankin, 1907-1914; E. L. T. Engers, D. D., 1915-1920; W. J. Seiberling, D. D., 1921-1925; C. E. Dozer, 1925-1928; W. J. Seiberling, D. D., 1928-1937; W. B. Claney, Jr., 1938-1947; G. R. Deisher, Jr., 1948-1954; S. H. Gross, 1955-1957; Robert Haslage, 1957 —.

Homestead Park — Messiah — 1904

(See Plate 20)

THE life of Messiah congregation can be divided into two almost equal parts: the church in Homestead from 1904 to 1928, and the church in Homestead Park from 1928 to the present. A merger with St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Homestead terminated the first period and only forty active adult members and their families came to Homestead Park as the nucleus of the present congregation.

The history of each period is similar and is characterized by beginning with a small membership, needing financial aid, and owning no property. In each period the membership grew, land was acquired, buildings erected, indebtedness paid, and full self-support attained.

Homestead Period — 1904-1928

In the summer of 1904 a canvass of Homestead and vicinity was made under the direction of the Rev. S. T. Nicholas, Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod (General Synod), for the purpose of organizing a Lutheran Church. The work of organizing the mission was conducted by Uriah A. Guss, a seminary student in Susquehanna University. The first service was held on Sunday evening, July 3, 1904, in McClure's Hall, Eighth and Ann Street, Homestead.

On August 7, 1904 the place of worship was changed to the Munhall Municipal Building, Eighth and Andrew Streets. On that day the Sunday School was organized with thirty-two members. The congregation was organized on September 11, 1904, with thirty-one charter members.

The congregation called the Rev. Webster C. Spayde to be its first regular pastor on January 1, 1905. An arrangement was made with the German Protestant Evangelical Church (Now St. Mark's Lutheran) on Ninth Avenue that their building could be used for Messiah's services. The congregation worshipped there from April 16, 1905 until Messiah's building, 1208 West Street, was dedicated in 1913. All preaching services from 1905 to 1913 were held in the evening.

By 1911 conditions improved. During the pastorate of the Rev. William A. Berkey the church and parsonage on West Street were built. In 1910 land at 1208 West Street was purchased for $2,550. In September, 1912 ground was broken for a church and parsonage which cost about $10,000. The church was dedicated April 6, 1913. Most of the funds used were loans from home mission agencies. Pastor Berkey resigned in 1916 because of ill health.

During the pastorate of the Rev. James F. Kelly the congregation again prospered. By February 1924 all outstanding indebtedness had been cleared and in January, 1925 the congregation became self-sustaining.

The Merger

Homestead, being highly industrialized and dependent chiefly upon the steel and related industries, has been very sensitive to general economic and business conditions. In time of depression the whole community, including its churches, is seriously affected.

The panic of 1907 and the years following caused great hardships for the congregation. Negotiations were instituted in 1908 between Messiah and St. John's of Homestead to merge the congregations. However, a basis agreeable to both could not be reached.

About ten years later, during the readjustment following World War I, discussion of merger took place between the Councils of the two congregations. In 1918 the General Synod and General Council united to form the United Lutheran Church. Many thought it advisable to merge the two Lutheran congregations located only four blocks apart. Again, however, a procedure satisfactory to both congregations was not found.

In 1928 the officers of the Synod encouraged a merger and declared that, regardless of the action taken by the two congregations, a new mission would be established in the Homestead Park area. Messiah agreed not to use its church on West Street for services and transferred most of its members to St. John's. The membership of the congregation at the beginning of 1928 was 404 baptized members, 260 confirmed, and 172 communing. At the end of the year there were 202 baptized, 80 confirmed, and 40 communing members.

Homestead Park Period — 1928-1956

Sunday School and Church services were started at the Mifflin Township Fire Hall, Main and Eugene Streets. Pastor Flick resigned in January, 1929 and student, Richard A. Kline, spent some months here surveying the community. The congregation was granted mission status and received financial aid and general supervision from the Mission Board of the Synod.

In March, 1929 the Rev. L. W. Rupp began his pastorate. Five lots on Main Street were purchased for $7,700, with money secured by a bank loan. At first regular re-payments were made on the loan but as the economic conditions became worse in the depression years, it required sacrificial efforts even to pay interest.

In 1933 the congregation was forced to find a new temporary home. A lease was taken on an empty store room on Caroline and Davis Streets where services were held for the next six years. Pastor Rupp resigned in May, 1937.

The Rev. Charles M. Teufel, D. D., became pastor in November, 1937. In May, 1938 the congregation pledged $2,500 and loans of $7,500 were received from the Mission agencies of the Synod so that at last the congregation could look forward to having a building. A basement unit was constructed and dedicated on January 22, 1939.

In October, 1940 work was begun on a parsonage. It was consecrated March 30, 1941. The West Street church was sold in August, 1941.

Two years later, October, 1943, work was started on the church proper. Funds of the congregation were augmented by loans of $30,000 provided by the Mission Boards and the Church Extension Society. The present building was dedicated on September 17, 1944.

During the building program and afterwards the congregation grew rapidly in strength and numbers. Dr. Teufel resigned to retirement in July, 1947.

The Rev. Luther K. Clare was installed as pastor in November, 1947. The congregation became self-sustaining in 1949. Continuous effort was made to eliminate all indebtedness ($22,240 in 1947). A mortgage burning service was held on October 23, 1952. A program of property improvement has been completed and funds are being accumulated for future expansion of the church.

The following pastors have served Messiah: W. C. Spayde, 1905-1906; C. R. Dunlap, 1907-1908; D. Upton Bair, 1909-1910; D. E. Rupley, 1910-1911; W. A. Berkey, 1911-1916; D. L. Shaffer, 1916-1919; D. P. Drawbaugh, 1920-1923; J. F. Kelly, 1923-1926; H. H. Flick, 1926-1928; L. W. Rupp, 1929-1937; C. M. Teufel, 1937-1947; L. K. Clare, 1947-1957; Bernard Wise, 1958 —.

Indiana Zion 1813

PREEMINENT among the pioneers of Indiana was Conrad Reis. His home was the rallying center of Lutheranism in the community. From the time he came to Indiana in 1795 until 1829 his home was the meeting place of travelling preachers who came to the community. From 1798 to 1806 John Michael Steck of Greensburg preached in his home four times a year. During pleasant weather these services were held in the barn. From 1806 to 1813 Pastor Steck, who had four central churches of his own near Greensburg and a score of other preaching points, could preach in Indiana only once a year. By this time a number of other German families had settled in the community making it necessary that they have more services.

In 1813 the people of Indiana were visited by Rev. Johann Gottfried Lamprecht, a graduate of the Gymnasium of Goettingen, Germany. His services were so acceptable that they asked him to become their pastor. The official record of Zion was opened by him in 1813, and the regularity of the baptismal records would indicate that he preached for them every four weeks. He effected the regular organization of Zion Church in 1813 with a membership of not more than 24. In 1813 Conrad Reis donated three acres of ground to the German Lutheran and Reformed congregations for church and burial purposes for a consideration of $1.50, "so long as the sun and moon shall shine." For some reason this ground was never used for building purposes, but it is still legally the property of the congregation.

Pastor Lamprecht came to Indiana as an "independent" preacher, but this did not altogether satisfy the Lutheran people, and he therefore applied to the Ministerium for membership. The Ministerium, after an examination, decided "to have nothing to do with him," and after that his name disappears from the records of the Lutheran churches in western Pennsylvania. His last entry in the Zion Church Record bears the date May 15, 1815. From 1815 to 1822 the congregation was without the services of a regular pastor; in 1817 an imposter named Hoover preached for them; in 1818 Pastor John M. Steck visited them again; in 1819 and 1820 Pastor Shultz of Johnstown gave them an occasional sermon. The name of John Adam Mohler of Armstrong county also appears on the record during this period.

In 1822 the Ministerium of Pennsylvania commissioned Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichert as travelling preacher for western Pennsylvania. The Indiana church received great benefit from this visitation, and thirty-five persons were present at the communion service which he conducted for them. When he was reappointed for this work by the Ministerium in the following year, he made Indiana his place of residence. He was married to Miss Lydia Tyson of Brush Valley September 16, 1823, riding on horseback with his bride all the way to Clarion county in order to be married by Pastor Koch of the German Reformed Church. Pastor Reichert served

the congregation from 1822 to 1826, resigning only because the young people asked for more English services than he was able to supply. In 1822 he organized the first Sunday School of Indiana county, auxiliary to the American Sunday School Union. The first sessions were held in the courthouse, the Presbyterians, United Presbyterians, and Methodists, and Lutherans cooperating. In 1830 it was removed to the newly finished basement of Zion Church. In course of time the other cooperating churches withdrew and formed schools of their own; but the original organization remains as the Sunday School of Zion Church.

In 1826 Rev. Nicholas G. Scharretts was licensed and commissioned to travelling preacher by the West Pennsylvania Synod. He visited the counties of Indiana, Clearfield, Jefferson, Venango, Crawford, Erie, and Huntingdon; but the Indiana Church was so much pleased with his services that he was urged to become their pastor. He accepted this call in the summer of 1827, and served Indiana, Blairsville, and Brush Valley for more than nine years, refusing a number of calls from other and more prominent parishes. His pastorate closed in death December 31, 1836. He was a man of rich endowments and fervent piety.

When the West Pennsylvania Synod met in Zion Church in October of 1831, the ordination services were conducted in English for the first time in the history of that body in order that all English Lutherans of Indiana could understand them. The public services of Zion were held in the home of Conrad Reis until 1829, when the courthouse was rented. Banished from this place of worship after a few months, the congregation determined to build a church of their own. A lot was purchased from Adam Altemus March 22, 1830 for $100; the work of building was soon begun. On October 9, 1831 the building was dedicated by Dr. Samuel S. Schmucker, as Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. The West Penn Synod was in session in the church at the time. "This church was a brick building, 42 x 40, with basement, vestibule, gallery, cupola and bell, and cost about $3,000." When Pastor Nicholas G. Scharretts died, his body was interred at the doorway of this church where it remained until 1878, when it was exhumed and laid beside that of his wife in Oakland Cemetery.

Pastor Scharretts' successor was Rev. Jacob Medtart who served from March 1, 1838 to March 1, 1843. In 1841 Rev. John H. Bernheim of Elderton asked permission to hold occasional services for the Germans of the congregation. This request was granted, but the visiting pastor organized these Germans into a second congregation on the occasion of his second visit. When Zion protested this action to the West Penn Synod Rev. Bernheim was deeply offended and united with the Joint Synod of Ohio. This German church maintained a feeble and checkered existence for a number of years, being served by pastors of both the Pittsburgh and Ohio Synods, losing one church by a sheriff's sale and later erecting another, but it was finally absorbed by Zion.

During the pastorate of Rev. Bishop a parsonage was built on the corner of Church and Clymer streets as a cost of $1,500. The pastorate of Rev. Emery was marked by large accessions to the membership, with the result that the church was enabled to support a pastor of its own for the first time. On New Year's Day of 1865 Rev. Augustus Clemens Ehrenfeld became pastor. Under his ministry the congregation was greatly developed, especially in the grace of liberality. Extensive repairs were made to both church and parsonage at a cost of $6,000. He resigned October 1, 1875, but continued to reside in the town until his death March 10, 1897.

Scarcely had the pastorate of Rev. Bell fairly begun when the women of Zion started a movement for a new church. They held a meeting August 2, 1879 and appointed a committee of four to wait upon the officers of the church. When the committee appeared before that body, they received little encouragement from any

of its members except the pastor. Nothing daunted they organized a Ladies' Aid Society and raised a building fund. Mother Reis headed their solicitation list, with a subscription of $100. Others followed suit so that the church council changed its position and backed the new venture. The old church was razed and the parsonage removed to its site. A brick church was erected on the corner at a cost of $10,000. This church was dedicated January 9, 1881, Dr. F. W. Conrad preaching the sermon. Every dollar needed to meet the remaining indebtedness was raised. While the work of building progressed, services were held in the Episcopal Church.

The next regular pastor was Rev. Lewis Hay, who completed the most noteworthy pastorate in the history of the congregation. Called from Meechburg May 1, 1884, he served the people of Zion until his death August 20, 1915. To Dr. Hay was given a commanding position in the religious life of this community such as few men enjoyed. This position of vantage enabled him to develop Zion into one of the strongest congregations in the synod. This was made easier by the fact that he served here at a time when many members of rural churches were moving into Indiana and making it their permanent home. The parsonage on Sixth street was erected during his pastorate; improvements to the value of several thousand dollars were made to the church

Pastor Hay's successor was E. Maclay Gearhart who served from April 1, 1916 to March 12, 1922. During his pastorate there was a large increase in the membership of the congregation. A movement was also begun for the erection of a more commodius church, and a large subscription list was secured; but there were sharp differences of opinion as to whether a new church should be erected on the Conrad Reis property or whether the old church should be enlarged. For this reason the matter was postponed.

Dr. Joseph Baer Baker succeeded Dr. Gearhart. He began his work August 16, 1922. He took up the building problem in earnest. It was decided to raze the old church and build a new stone church on the same site. An intensive financial campaign yielded more than $100,000 and the contract was let for the construction of a steel-framed, stone-veneered Gothic church at $159,000. When the church was completed, however, its cost was $225,000. The beautiful building was dedicated by Dr. Baker June 8, 1924.

On February 4, 1945 Victory Sunday was celebrated at Zion. At that time the remaining $25,000 was paid off on the church debt. In 1952 the work at Zion had grown to such an extent as to require an assistant pastor. Robert Dell was called as assistant in that year.

The ministers who have served Zion are: John M. Steck, 1798-1813; John G. Lamprecht, 1813-1817; Supplies, 1817-1818; Shultz, 1819-1821; John Adam Mohler, 1821-1822; G. A. Reichert, 1822-1826; Nicholas Scharretts, 1827-1835; John Medtart, 1838-1843; Henry Bishop, 1843-1849; C. J. Deininger, 1849-1852; Peter Sahm, 1853-1858; Wm. S. Emery, 1858-1862; J. P. Hentz, 1862-1864; C. T. Stech, 1876-1878; P. G. Bell, 1878-1882; A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1882-1884; Lewis Hay, 1884-1915; E. Maclay Gearhart, 1915-1922; J. B. Baker, 1922-1926; B. F. Bieber, 1927-1931; A. J. Pfohl, 1931 —, Robert Dell, (Assistant pastor), 1952 —.

Ingomar Trinity 1845

TRINITY, Ingomar, is located in one of the older German settlements of Allegheny county, and it still bears the name German in its charter and upon the front wall of the church building. Of course, the German language has not been used in the church for a number of years. An examination of the gravestones in the adjoining cemetery reveals the fact that a number of people born in Hannover, Baiern, Wuertemberg, and Hess Darmstadt before the close of the eighteenth century, lie at rest here. The majority of the German settlers of this region were Catholic, and the Redemptorist Fathers did everything in their power to make the entire community catholic; but at least twelve families were staunch Lutherans and remained true to their faith.

Pastor Michael Schweigert sought them out in 1845 and organized them into a congregation. This faithful pastor came from McKeesport every two weeks, generally on foot in order to minister to them. One of the faithful Lutherans of the settlement, Philip Brandt, donated two acres of ground for church and burial purposes September 4, 1858; and a few years later, when it became desirable to build a new church on higher ground, persuaded Benjamin Bradford to donate two and a half additional acres. Pastor Schweigert preached for them from 1845 to 1851, after which the church was made a part of the Beaver Mission, and brought under the pastoral care of H. C. Kaehler. The first church was built of logs, 23½ x 25, and dedicated by Pastor Schweigert October 31, 1847. The inner walls were kept whitewashed every year, and all the furnishings, including the plain slab seats, were painted white. The cost of this church is not known, but the actual cash outlay amounted to very little. It was heated by one stove in the center of the building. No provision was made for lighting, as no evening services were held. According to the German custom, the men sat on one side of the church and the women on the other. Pastor Kaehler served the congregation from 1851-1862, during the greater part of which time his parish consisted of seven congregations. Many of his appointments were made on foot.

After the resignation of Pastor Kaehler the church was supplied by pastors from the city. The most helpful service was given by Pastor Henry Neumann of Pittsburgh who helped to secure a legal charter June 6, 1863. The corporation title was "Trinity German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Franklin Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania." The charter is one of the strictest and binds the congregation to the Pittsburgh Synod.

In 1864, when the church was formally admitted into the Synod, the church united with St. John's Wuertemberg and St. Paul's in forming "Trinity Charge". Rev. Herman Gilbert was called to minister to these churches. In 1867 he relinquished Wuertemberg and St. John's congregations and accepted St. Matthew's of Wall Rose in their stead. During the earlier part of his ministry he lived in the vicinity of Trinity, boarding with some of the families of the church. Later he lived in Zelienople from which place he would frequently walk the long distance to Trinity on Saturday to meet his catechetical class and then, after the Sunday morning service, continue his walk to Wall Rose or Glenfield. It was during Rev. Gilbert's pastorate that the old log church was torn down and a good brick church erected on the high ground of the Bradford tract. The cornerstone was laid April 19, 1868; the building was dedicated October 11, 1868. Rev. Henry E. Jacobs preached the dedication sermon in English. The church was built of brick, burned on the farm of Philip Brandt. The cost was $5,000.

In May of 1883 Pastor Dietrich occupied the new parsonage erected at a cost of $1,500 on ground across the road from the church. One of the most successful

pastorates in the history of this church was that of Paul G. Klingler who took charge of Trinity and St. John's in 1907 and served them until 1921, when each congregation was sufficiently strong to support its own pastor.

When Charles E. Dozer became pastor of Trinity in 1921 there was a noticeable growth in benevolent giving. During his pastorate $12,000 was given for this purpose. During the pastorate of Herbert T. Neve new chancel furniture was placed in the church. After Frank H. Miller started his ministry in 1927 excavation under the church provided the congregation with a commodious basement which included rest rooms and a kitchen.

During the pastorate of Kenneth H. Cornell a new chancel, organ chamber, and sacristy were added to the building at a cost of $7,000. A bequest of $1,500 from the estate of Mrs. Anna Scheidler helped to provide a two manual pipe organ. Chimes were added to the organ in 1945 as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred P. Soergel, Mr. Soergel's mother and his sister Mabel. The 100th anniversary was celebrated in 1945 when Dr. John J. Myers became pastor.

Trinity has grown with the community. A third of an acre of land was recently purchased adjoining the church. A contract for a new Educational unit has been let at a cost of $100,000.

The following ministers have served Trinity: Michael Schweigert, 1845-1851; H. C. Kaehler, 1851-1862; Henry Neumann, 1862-1864; Herman Gilbert, 1864-1874; Johannes Muelhauser, 1874-1878; Joseph Rechsteiner, 1878-1882; Ivan Dietrich, 1882-1889; Henry Reumann, 1889-1891; Philip Lamerdin, 1891-1893; J. H. Meyer, 1893-1894; J. Leupke, 1895-1896; C. F. Tiemann, 1896-1899; P. J. C. Glatzert, 1900-1906; P. G. Klingler, 1907-1921; C. E. Dozer, 1921-1925; Herbert T. Neve, 1926-1927; Frank H. Miller, 1927-1934; Kenneth H. Cornell, 1934-1945; John J. Myers, D. D., 1945-1956; C. B. Daniels, 1956 —.

Irwin — Holy Trinity — 1874

(See Plate 21)

SERVICES were conducted occasionally in Irwin during 1873, by the Rev. A. H. Bartholomew at the request of a few Lutheran people, most of whom were members of Trinity Church, Adamsburg, Pennsylvania. It was their earnest request and desire to establish an English Lutheran church in this town.

On May 30, 1874, according to previous appointment, a meeting was held in the Public School House for the purpose of organizing an Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Irwin. Rev. A. H. Bartholomew presided and was elected president. S. S. Blyholder was elected secretary. At this and seven subsequent meetings the proposed constitution was considered article by article. On July 12, 1887, the constitution in its final draft was read and unanimously adopted.

Rev. A. H. Bartholomew, with the assistance of a few other brethren, supplied the congregation until a regular pastor was called. Services were held first in the School Hall, also for a time in the Baptist Church. In the spring of 1876, Trinity Church, Adamsburg, and Irwin were united and constituted a parish, and on April 1, 1876 the Rev. V. B. Christy of Delmont was called and became its pastor. The latter for a time also preached in the School Hall and then in the basement of the United Presbyterian Church. He had only 20 members, but he took charge and, in the first year, increased this number to 52.

In the summer of 1876 the two Lutheran congregations of Irwin, the English and the Swedish, considered the matter of building a church edifice jointly. To that

end a series of resolutions were adopted, the cooperative spirit of which is indicated in Resolution 8: "Resolved that each congregation do all it can towards this work, and that each be accorded full and equal rights in the building for the purpose of worship." After a few months this joint effort was terminated, and in the spring of 1877 the English congregation (Holy Trinity) purchased a lot on the corner of Main and Fifth streets as the site for their new church. Ground was broken on May 21, and the cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on July 26, 1877. Reverends P. Doerr, Enoch Smith, W. F. Ulery, J. S. Fink, and Samuel Laird, of the Pittsburgh Synod, were present and assisted the pastor. Reverend Ekeberg of the Swedish congregation was also present. Following this service, the brethren assisted Pastor Ekeberg in laying the cornerstone of the Swedish church building. The building of Holy Trinity church was carried on so successfully that it was finished by January 1, 1878, and on the 24th of February was dedicated to the worship of God.

The church was a plain brick building, gothic in style, 32 x 54 feet in size, with a corner tower 50 feet high, through which was the entrance into the auditorium. It was neatly built and plainly furnished, had a seating capacity of 225, and cost $2,800.

In the spring of 1880 an effort seemingly was made to unite the Swedish congregation with Holy Trinity as indicated by the following resolution adopted by the latter: "Resolved that we rejoice to hear of the willingness of the brethren of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Irwin, to unite their church interests with ours, and earnestly hope that suitable and satisfactory arrangements may speedily be entered into, whereby this union may be consumated." Two months later, however, a letter was received from the Swedish congregation thanking Holy Trinity for their kind invitation, but stating that the majority considered it inexpedient to unite at the present time.

The Rev. V. B. Christy continued as pastor of Holy Trinity until April 1, 1881, when he resigned to accept a call from the Zelienople Parish. At the close of his pastorate the confirmed membership totaled 70.

In 1883 Trinity, Irwin, became a separate parish. Adamsburg church was united with Brush Creek. Later, Unity Mission of Manor Station was united with Irwin. In September 1884 the Rev. F. W. Kohler was called as pastor with a stated salary of $500. As a result of the long vacancy, Pastor Kohler found the membership of the congregation scattered and the financial affairs neglected. He served Trinity church for two years, rendering valuable service in that he collected the money needed to free the church from debt, introduced the envelope system, made the congregation self-supporting, and placed it on a sound financial basis.

Rev. E. L. Baker of the Theological Seminary at Philadelphia was instrumental in procuring the charter for the congregation, which is dated December 30, 1886, and signed by 40 members. Rev. Baker served in addition the Manor Mission until about a year before he resigned as pastor, at which time work at the Manor Mission was terminated.

The Parish remained vacant until the Spring of 1891 when the Rev. S. K. Herbster was called from West Newton. Pastor Herbster began his pastoral labors on the first Sunday of July, 1891. He reports the membership to have been but 62 when he took charge and only 37 in the Sunday School. A frame parsonage at a total cost of $3,500 was built at 320 Pennsylvania Avenue, which was occupied by Pastor Herbster May 1, 1892. The long pastorate of Reverend Samuel K. Herbster was rich in fruitage. The congregation developed in numbers and a new church was built.

On July 7, 1901, a farewell service to the old church was held and two months later, on September 29, 1901, the cornerstone of the new church was laid by the pastor. He was assisted by Reverends Edmund Belfour, D. D., and J. C. Kunzmann, D. D. The work of erecting the church dragged, so that the edifice was not ready for dedication until November 15, 1903. The church was built of brick and stone, octagonal in form, with a seating capacity of 325 in the auditorium and 50 in the balcony, at a cost of $15,000.

At the encouragement of the Luther League, the question of securing a pipe organ was taken up and, after securing the promise of Mr. Andrew Carnegie to pay for half of an $1800 organ, on April 30,1905, a Moller organ was installed in the church.

Pastor Herbster, after laboring hard and faithfully for more than 19 years, resigned in September, 1910 to accept a call to Grace Church, Spring Garden Avenue, Northside, Pittsburgh. The confirmed membership was now almost 400, and the Sunday School enrollment was 226.

The Rev. J. O. Glenn of New Stanton was regularly installed as pastor by Rev. J. J. Brubeck. During his pastorate the duplex envelope system and individual communion cups were introduced, the baptismal font was presented by W. E. Swenson, the old steam heating system was replaced by a new and larger one, and the debt was substantially reduced.

On November 11, 1917, the Rev. Joshua H. Miller, Ph. D., pastor of St. John's, New Castle, was extended a call. During the first year of his pastorate a fund of over $2,000 was raised to renovate the church and parsonage and pay the remaining debt. The installation of an organ blower and the frescoeing of the church were included in the improvements. In December, 1918 at a special service the mortgage was burned, a cross donated by a friend of the congregation was placed on the altar.

Other items of interest during Dr. Miller's pastorate include: the vesting of the choir is 1925, refrescoeing the interior of the church, changing the lighting system, and making other extensive repairs and replacements in 1927 at a total cost of nearly $4,000, and the adopting of the new constitution in 1936. After a long and faithful pastorate of 20 years, on October 17, 1937, Pastor Miller resigned in order to retire from the active ministry.

On March 20, 1938 a call was extended to the Rev. Paul N. Schnur, pastor of St. John's and House of Mercy congregations, Freedom, Pennsylvania, to become pastor of Holy Trinity. Extensive repairs and improvements were made at the parsonage in 1938 costing $1,800.00. In 1954 Inselbric was applied to the exterior of the parsonage.

In 1941 the house next to the church was purchased from the Irwin Savings and Trust Company, and a few years later, in 1946, after the construction in 1944 of a a connecting link, was opened for use as a Parish House.

In 1949, Holy Trinity's Diamond Jubilee Year, the chancel and choir loft were completely renovated with the installation of new altar, reredos and wainscoting, pulpit, lectern, organ console and choir stalls. The Moller pipe organ was rebuilt with new stops and chimes added. The organ chamber was constructed with oak grill installed. The interior of the church and Sunday School room were redecorated. The cost of the improvements made totaled close to $13,000.00. "The Book of Remembrance" was purchased to record all memorials.

During the fifteen year pastorate of Pastor Schnur the congregation grew in stewardship and evangelism.

Pastor Schnur started two mission congregations while at Holy Trinity. The first was at Paintertown, two miles north of Irwin where the Paintertown Lutheran Church was organized in 1946. The church was organized on April 7, 1946 with 95 charter members, 25 of whom came from Holy Trinity, Irwin. Holy Trinity purchased the lot upon which the Paintertown Lutheran Church was later erected. The second was a branch Sunday School in the Sunset Valley area 2 miles south west of Irwin inaugurated in December, 1951, which, in the fall of 1952, resulted in the organization of the Lutheran Church of our Saviour. This church was organized at Holy Trinity September 21, 1952. Of the 107 adults uniting with this second daughter congregation on the date of its organization 66 were transferred from Holy Trinity.

A two-year course of catechetical instruction prior to confirmation was made the official policy with young people.

Holy Trinity, on Easter 1953 at the close of the pastorate of Pastor Schnur, had a confirmed membership of 800 and a baptized membership of 1,121. Sunday School enrollment of the first of the year was 318.

The parsonage at 320 Pennsylvania Ave. was sold during the vacancy between Pastor Schnur and the coming of Pastor Smail in August, 1953. The property was sold for $10,500 and the congregation applied this sum to the building of a new parsonage at 1218 Eighth Ave. Pastor Smail and family were housed in a new home on Mockingbird Hill for five months, while the parsonage was being built. The congregation authorized the erection of a new parsonage in July of 1953; ground was broken August 21, 1953. The contract was let September 21, and the foundation started September 24 and the pastor and family moved in December 30.

The lot was purchased for $2600 and the parsonage was erected for a cost of $20,000. The value was declared to be $30,000.

The 8th Anniversary and Dedication of the parsonage was held September 26 - October 3, 1954. The Anniversary dedication Service was September 26 at 3:00 P. M. on the lawn and patio of the new parsonage.

The Lenten season of 1955 was supported by the congregation to such a degree that it became necessary to hold two services each Sunday. The Council established two services at 8:15 and 10:45 A. M. as a year round policy on June 19, 1955.

The area is becoming more cosmopolitan with many new persons moving in, but many are also moving out. The council is working with the architect on an expansion and rebuilding program which will begin as soon as additional property can be purchased.

The pastors who have served Holy Trinity are as follows: A. H. Bartholomew (supply), 1874-1876; V. B. Christy, 1876-1881; E. G. Lund, 1881-1883; F. W. Kohler, 1884-1886; E. L. Baker, 1886-1890; S. K. Herbster, 1891-1910; J. O. Glenn, 1911-1917; J. H. Miller, 1918-1938; Paul N. Schnur, 1938-1953; Everett R. Smail, 1953 —.

Irwin (Cereal Heights) Our Saviour 1952

IN May of 1951 the Board of American Missions conducted a survey for prospects in the homes in the Cereal, Clay Pike, and Guffey Road area. This survey showed that there were 155 adult prospects and 81 children prospects. Of the 155 adults 88 were Lutheran, 60 of whom were members of the Holy Trinity Church, Irwin.

The Mission Board purchased House 139, Sunset Valley for a Branch Sunday School. At the dedicatory service of this Branch Sunday School on November 4, 1951, the people who attended the service favored the location of a new church on Clay Pike in Cereal near the intersection of Clay Pike and Guffey Road. The Sunday School was officially opened on December 9, 1951 under the leadership of Pastor Paul N. Schnur.

During the summer of 1952 Seminarian William G. Steiner was in charge of services. The charter day service was held June 29, 1952; the first summer Bible School began July 7; and the Women of the Church organized June 12. In August an option was taken on the Barton property as the site for the new church.

When Seminarian William G. Steiner returned to his studies, Rev. E. James Mollenauer became the first pastor. He delivered his first sermon September 7, 1951. The charter list of 107 signers was completed September 15, 1952. The organization day service was held September 21 in Holy Trinity, Irwin. On December 21 of that year the first service was held in the new church in Cereal Heights. Ground breaking for an addition to the new building was started almost immediately on January 6, 1953.

A new Baldwin organ was purchased in March of 1955 and dedicated at a special service on April 17. In the course of the first three years groups within the church were organized and many furnishings added as gifts from these organizations and individuals.

At a special congregational meeting held April 15, 1956 it was decided to double the capacity of the church and carry the gable over the entire church. The narthex roof was also to be carried over to meet the new roof. The enlarged building was to serve for educational and recreational purposes. The service of dedication for this expansion program was held January 27, 1957.

In the summer of 1957 seminarian Donald Hebrank made a six week survey of the area for the purpose of increasing the church membership.

On August 30, 1957 a farewell reception for Pastor Mollenauer was held in the Lincoln Heights Community House. About 250 were present. Although Pastor Mollenauer was able to give only part time service to the congregation, the confirmed membership had reached 225 at the time of his retirement.

E. James Mollenauer, the only full time pastor of Our Saviour, served from 1951 to 1957; J. B. Spielman, 1958 —.

Jeannette Holy Trinity 1890

THE organization of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church was coincidental with the discovery of natural gas in this region and the subsequent founding of Jeannette. Many Lutherans had always been associated with the glass industry both in this country and in Europe, so it was natural that many of the families which originally came to this new field were Lutherans of German and Scandinavian extraction. The earliest church services were held in the packing room of the McKee Glass Company and were conducted by Rev. E. G. Lund, then pastor in Greensburg. Often, due to his regular duties in his established parish, Pastor Lund was obliged to send a substitute. Since there was no pastoral work done and no administrative guidance, what was once a strong Sunday School and mission Church disbanded.

At this juncture the Home Mission Committee of the Pittsburgh Synod called Robert M. Zimmerman to activate the work in the Jeannette area. Arrangements were made with the German Lutherans, who had already begun to establish a church and had secured a building on North Second Street, to use their facilities, and it was here that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity was organized on April 13, 1890 with 58 charter members. It was formally received as a congregation of the Pittsburgh Synod at its convention that fall.

The first church was dedicated on June 23, 1894 as a cost of $12,000 for the church building and an additional $4000.00 for the adjoining parsonage. Both buildings were located on the Gaskill and Third Street property which remains as the site today.

After 13 years of history the confirmed membership stood at only 250.

There followed a long pastorate of 13 years under J. J. Brubeck. During the early years a sharp division of sentiment occurred concerning the practices of the General Council and the General Synod and a number of members withdrew to form St. Mark's Church on November 22, 1908. Later again much stress resulted from the decision to replace the old building with a more commodious one. However, the old church was razed in 1916 and the present fine Gothic building erected at a cost of $30,000.00. The new church was dedicated on September 22, 1917.

Echoes of the division of sentiment were still felt during the pastorate of the Rev. W. G. Langhans, but the congregation soon absorbed the zeal of the new pastor, and, joined by its returning servicemen, began making a fresh advance. Fifty one young men of the church had been called into military service during World War I of which Amos A. J. Myers was a casualty. The present Jeannette post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars bears his name, the Amos A. J. Myers Post.

The congregation was freed of indebtedness during the pastorate of the Rev. George L. Himmelman who was called in 1922 from the Ruffsdale Parish. It was under his energetic leadership that the Sunday School grew and made room for expansion necessary. To facilitate this need, a new parsonage at 204 North Second Street was secured at a cost of $15,000.00 and the old parsonage revamped and used for Sunday School purposes.

One month after the departure of Pastor Fetterly the pulpit was again filled when the Rev. Edgar B. Hanks was called from Hebron Lutheran Church, Blairsville, Pa. Facing the remaining $14,000.00 indebtedness, pastor and people began a five year plan for the steady reduction of the mortgage.

From the membership of the church during World War II years a total of 235 young men and women went out to answer their country's call, four of whom paid the

supreme sacrifice. Special memorial services were held for the four casualties and at the time of the Centennial of Home Missions in the Pittsburgh Synod the church, by contributions of $100.00 each, memorialized the four and also sponsored a page in the centennial book in honor of those who safely returned.

Almost as soon as the parsonage debt was paid on July 20, 1941, an organ fund was instituted. The fund grew steadily until in 1946 a decision was made to purchase a new organ. However, due to a scarcity of materials complete plans were not made until 1948 at which time prices had increased and there was a concerted movement on foot to build a new educational unit on the site of the old parish house. Accordingly on March 27, 1949 plans were authorized and the educational building and installation of an organ were combined into one project. The complete building was dedicated with appropriate services on May 14, 1950 just a year after actual construction had begun. Dedicated at the time were a set of carillonic bells, a new altar, reredos, and chancel paneling, together with other individual gifts, and the long awaited Moller organ.

At the time of dedication a total of $85,807.00 had been expended for the educational building and equipment, but it was far from complete, so that, in the five years since, another $15,359.00 has been expended making a total of $101,167.00 as the total cost of the new building, church alterations, and equipment. Conservative estimates of the new building place the value at $125,000.00.

At the time of his call in early 1936, Pastor Hanks found a church with 695 confirmed members. Today the confirmed membership has risen to 1269 with 950 communing. The pastor has received into confirmed membership a total of 1438 persons and baptized 883 children and adults. He has officiated at 353 weddings and has served at 388 funerals. There are at present almost 600 families in the church but of the original 695 confirmed members only 146 remain, witnessing to a rapid turnover in membership due to death and removal from the community.

During these years of heavy contributions for the local church, the work of the Synod and the church at large has not been forgotten. While the debt reduction program was in force the church has been able to contribute $42,085.00 as its 100% share of yearly apportionments; $7716.00 was contributed to Lutheran World Action; $2,327.00 to the Home Mission Appeal; $3,523.00 to the cause of Christian Higher Education; $1,500.00 for endowment of a room at Thiel College; $1,000.00 for a cabin at Lutherlyn; $3,732.00 for the Orphans Home at Zelienople; and $2,728.00 for other benevolences. The benevolent expenditures during that time therefore totalled $64,-611.00. During this time every appeal of the church at large was met 100% of quota or over signifying a well rounded program of stewardship.

The following pastors have served Holy Trinity: E. G. Lund, D. D., 1889; R. M. Zimmerman, 1889-1895; J. W. Myers, 1896-1898; F. S. Beistel, 1898-1902; L. D. Reed, 1903-1904; J. J. Brubeck, 1905-1918; W. S. Langhans, 1919-1922; G. L. Himmelman, 1921-1931; Bernard Fetterly, 1931-1936; Edgar B. Hanks, Th. D., 1936 —.

Jeannette St. Mark's 1908

IN the official record of St. Mark's Church, the following statement of the beginnings of the congregation is given: "Owing to critical conditions, as they existed in the Holy Trinity Church of Jeannette, Pa., about seventy-five members severed their connection with the old church, and would have in all probability been lost to the Lutheran Church, and having been refused any redress on the part of the Southern Conference of the Pittsburgh Synod, General Council, measures were taken for the organization of a new congregation."

As the first step in carrying out their plans, a Sunday School was organized in Maxwell's Hall November 1, 1908, with forty-three persons present. Two weeks later a meeting of forty-three persons was held at the home of Dr. T. A. Klingensmith, where the question of organizing a church was discussed. On November 22, 1908, 63 persons assembled at Maxwell's Hall where the constitution of St. Mark's was signed. The first service was conducted by Pastor George O. Ritter the same day. He was given a call to serve as supply pastor, in connection wih his work in East McKeesport and Denmark Manor.

Appointments were made for the services every Sunday, alternating between afternoon and evening. This arrangement continued until June 1, 1909, when St. Mark's and Denmark Manor united to form a parish, and extended a call to Pastor G. O. Ritter at a salary of $1,000. The congregation was admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod in 1909 as a self-sustaining church. A lot on First Street, valued at $2,500 was secured by donation, where a brick church with a stone front was built at a cost of $13,300. The cornerstone was laid June 12, 1910, and the church dedicated by Pastor Ritter January 15, 1911. A debt of $7,000 was incurred which was not fully discharged until 10 years later.

Steady growth has marked the course of the years, and the confirmed members numbered 249 in 1923. In April, 1935, Pastor Wisler officiated at the funeral service of Pastor David Maxwell, the only boy in St. Mark's history to this time that had entered the ministry, having been ordained June, 1922 and passed away April, 1935. A parsonage fund was also started in 1942 and the parsonage was purchased in January, 1943 for $8,500. This was paid in full by May, 1944. This was the first year St. Mark's paid her apportionment in full.

Pastor Thomas Baker came to serve the church in 1948 and resigned in 1954. Under his guidance a new lighting system and the redecoration of both the Sunday School rooms and the church proper was completed. A new electric organ was also purchased. In 1953 the members of the church began work on a new educational plant, which was completed in 1955. Pastor John Peace was called to serve the church in 1954. Since his pastorate the church has once again been redecorated and wall-to-wall carpet has been placed on the floor, at a cost of about $5,000.

In 1953, at the Synod convention, two sons of the congregation were ordained to the ministry: Roy A. Guinn and Thomas Guinn. Roy was called to serve in Petersburg, Va., and Tom to serve at Pleasant Hills, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The following pastors have served St. Mark's: George O. Ritter, 1908-1913; J. E. F. Hassinger, 1913-1923; W. E. Arnolt, 1924-1926; Charles K. Wisler, 1926-1938; Frank Helsel, 1938-1942; R. H. Thurau, 1943-1948; Thomas Baker, 1948-1954; John Peace, 1954-1957; Gene J. Abel, 1958 —.

Jefferson, O. (Springboro, Pa.) Christ 1952

ON Sunday, June 22, 1952, seventeen Christians of German descent met for worship at the summer home of the Rev. Dr. George F. Hegele. The following two Sundays also found this small group of Christians worshipping at the Hegele residence. By July 13 of that year the Shadeland schoolhouse, one mile north of Springboro, Pa., had been secured for a meeting place. Because of the faithfulness and loyalty of these few Christians, and their eagerness to work, it was possible for organizational services for Christ Lutheran Church to be held on September 14, 1952. However, it was not until June 18, 1953 that the school building was purchased from Robert Lowry and became the permanent residence of the congregation.

Dr. Hegele served this congregation with both German and English services until November, 1953. During the last four months of Dr. Hegele's ministry, Emory Kilburn, then student at Mt. Airy Seminary, served as an assistant pastor.

Early in November, 1953, Dr. Donald L. Houser, Superintendent of the Synodical Board of Missions, appointed Gene Abel, student at Thiel College, Greenville, Pa., to serve the congregation during the winter months and until the election of a regular pastor.

The Rev. Judson H. Westgate was called by the members of Christ Church in April, 1954 to be their second regular pastor. When Pastor Westgate began his service to the congregation it became allied with St. John's Church, Girard, Pa. Pastor Westgate served the congregation until it became united with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Jefferson, Ohio.

Early in 1956 the church was joined with St. Paul's Church but the union did not become effective until June 12 when Ronald M. Brant became pastor of the newly formed parish which is known as the Jefferson-Springboro Parish.

Pastors serving this church are: George F. Hegele, 1952-1953; Emory Kilburn (seminary assistant), 1953; Gene Abel (college student supply), 1953-1954; Judson H. Westgate, 1954-1956; Ronald M. Brant, 1956-1957.

Jefferson, Ohio St. Paul's 1951

THE first worship service for the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church was held in the Town Hall on Sunday October 1, 1950 and was conducted by the Rev. Paul M. Ruff, pastor of First English Lutheran Church, Ashtabula, Ohio. After a few weeks the congregation moved its meeting place to the Grange Hall where the organizational service was held on January 7, 1951. When the charter membership was closed there were recorded fifty adult confirmed members and forty-eight child members.

On February 9, 1951 the Burns lot at the corner of Satin and Market Streets was purchased by the congregation. April 10, 1951, two days after the ground breaking for the parish hall, the congregation purchased an adjoining lot from the local school board. Excavation for the parish hall began on May 28. The parish hall and social room, which were the first units to be constructed of the church plan. were built entirely by volunteers from the congregation under the leadership of Pastor Ruff. The work on the church progressed day and night. The night work was done beneath large flood lights. Dedication services for the newly built edifice were held on Sunday, July 20, 1952. Pastor Ruff conducted the service of

dedication and the Rev. Donald L. Houser, Superintendent of Missions of Pittsburgh Synod, delivered the sermon.

The dedication service was the last service conducted by Pastor Ruff before leaving to assume duties at the House of Prayer Church, Alliquippa, Pa.

Following the pastorate of Rev. Ruff, the Rev. J. Allen Snyder was called to serve the congregation until June 11, 1955.

During the first two pastorates, St. Paul's Church was in a parish with First English Lutheran Church, Ashtabula, Ohio.

When the Rev. Ronald M. Brant was called to serve the congregation in June, 1955, it ceased to be united with First English Church and joined with Christ Lutheran Church, Springboro, Pa. This newly formed parish became known as the Jefferson-Springboro Parish.

Three pastors have served this parish: Paul M. Ruff, 1951-1952; J. Allen Snyder, 1952-1955; Ronald M. Brant, 1955-1957.

Johnsonburg — St. John's — 1888

(See Plate 21)

ST. JOHN'S Evangelical Lutheran Church had its inception with a meeting of a small group of German settlers held in the home of Mr. Frederick Lawrence on Christmas Eve, 1888. The organizer, Rev. A. R. J. Graepp, was also pastor of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ridgway, Pa., and St. John's continued to be served by pastors from Ridgway until 1893. There were 38 charter members.

The first service was conducted December 30, 1888 in the Union Chapel of the Methodist Church of Rolfe, Pa., which served as a meeting place for the first twelve years of its existence. In 1893 St. John's became a mission church of the Pittsburgh Synod and continued with mission aid until 1911. Rev. Tiemann began his pastorate February 14, 1894 and became the first resident pastor living in the town of Johnsonburg. During his pastorate the Wardvale Cemetery was acquired.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Joseph Schmalenbach that a brick church costing $3,000 was built on a plot of ground in West Johnsonburg donated by Mr. Kistler of the Kistler Tanning Co. The cornerstone was laid August 12, 1900 and the church dedicated March 17, 1901. Rev. Paul Kummer served the congregation from 1905 to 1909 and during this period a brick parsonage was built on a lot adjoining the church. A church basement was excavated and equipped for social and educational purposes. The services were now alternated between English and German.

The congregation grew in size and spiritual activity and under the leadership of Rev. Christian Friedrich Christiansen, 1926-1931, many physical improvements were made to the church interior. During the period of 1931-1942 the youth activities flourished under the guidance of Rev. Jacob Oscar Kroen and progressive lay leadership. The congregation also held a full week of celebration in 1938 commemorating its 50th Anniversary. Rev. M. J. Harder, 1942-1949, conducted the last German service. Following World War II the increase in membership of the congregation necessitated a major expansion program which culminated in a $55,000 construction project which was initiated by a ground breaking ceremony May 13, 1956.

The pastors served in the following order: Albert R. J. Graepp, 1888-1892; Emanuel Cressman, 1893; Christian Frederick Tiemann, 1894-1896; Joseph Hart Orr, 1897; Joseph Schmalenbach, 1898-1902; Paul Kummer, 1905-1909; John Mueller, 1910-1911; August Gruhn, 1911-1921; Paul Julius Charles Glatzert, 1921-1926; Christian Friedrich Christiansen, 1926-1931; J. Oscar Kroen, 1931-1942; M. J. Harder, 1942-1949; Nelson A. Miller, 1949-1952; Kenneth W. Munster, 1952-1955; Robert E. Olson, 1956 —.

Johnstown — Zion — 1852

(See Plates 22 and 23)

THE first citizen of Johnstown was Joseph Yahn, an enterprising German Mennonite, who settled at the forks of the Conemaugh and Stony Creek in 1793, and laid out the town in 1800. Some think his name was Schantz, but he himself spelled it Yahn. At all events it was from this German the city derived it name. The discovery of iron ore in the mountains in 1842 led to the building of Cambria Furnace and the opening of an era of prosperity. A great natural advantage of the town was that it lay at the head of western navigation.

The First Lutheran Church was established by Rev. J. K. Rebenach in 1819, but the German Church had become entirely English before the larger immigration from the Fatherland began. Peter Sahm of First Church, 1848-1852, took a deep interest in the new immigrants, and held services for them every alternate Sunday afternoon. Pastor Theobald Kleis was sent to Johnstown by W. A. Passavant in September of 1852, and a church was organized a few weeks later, forty men of Johnstown and vicinity giving their support.

The organization was effected in the Brethren Church, corner of Main and Jackson streets. The Church Record opened at that time contains the marriages and baptisms, but all other records were lost in the flood. The lot on the corner of Jackson and Locust streets was bought for $400 from James McMillan. The cornerstone of their first church was laid by Pastor Kiels June 5, 1853, but his death on October 7 denied him the privilege of dedication. The building was dedicated by Pastor C. C. A. Brand December 11, 1853.

It was a modest frame church, with a small sacristy in which it was the custom to hang memorial wreaths in honor of their dead. The chancel was finished in yellow and white. No organ was provided, but August Danges led the singing. Germans came from all parts of Cambria County to worship here, and the church was self-sustaining and independent from the beginning. While Pastor Carl Taubner was a member of the Alleghany Synod, he never returned any parochial reports from the congregation.

The first parochial teacher of Zion was Constantine Nenstiel, who opened a a school in a rented Railroad street hall in 1861. About four years later a school house was built on the corner of Jackson street and Carr alley. During these years there was such a large German immigration that the church was soon outgrown.

The cornerstone of their second church was laid in September, 1868, and the building dedicated by Pastor Taubner January 2, 1870. Much difficulty was experienced in building the steeple, and this led to the delay in dedication. It was built of brick, with the tower and entrance on Locust street. Galleries were built on three sides, providing a seating capacity of eight hundred. The cost of the second church was about $16,000. During the pastorate of Rev. Herman Veith, 1882-1889, a pipe organ was installed at a cost of $1,400, which was then considered the finest

in the city. Pastor Veith organized the Ladies' Aid Society in 1882, and was largely responsible for the organization of St. Paul's Church in Morrellville.

His successor was Rev. John Philip Lichtenberg, who began his labors May 12, 1889, and closed them in death, May 31, 1889, when the great flood swept through the valley and left death and desolation in its path. Among the 2,286 victims of the flood were Pastor Lichtenberg, his wife and four children. The bodies of the pastor and his wife were found on Sandyvale Cemetery, but the children were yet comparative strangers, and remained among the 776 unknown dead, which were interred in Grandview. The site of the church could not be identified after the flood until after a survey had been made. The church bell was recovered, and is still highly prized by the congregation.

The heart of the Lutheran Church was deeply touched by this catastrophe; and gifts of $10,440.06 were received from sympathetic friends. A fund of $4,016 was gathered by the Lutherische Kirchenblatt, and given to the congregation on condition that a pastor of the General Council be called. Thirty persons attended a congregational meeting June 23, 1889, when it was decided to rebuild and also to apply to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania for a pastor.

This came in the person of Pastor Paul A. Glasow June 27, 1889 who served until death, April 8, 1897. No other pastor ever served Zion to whom the parish owes more. Many of the parish irregularities of former years were discarded, and yet in such fine spirit that few found fault. His first services were held in Hausmann's Hall, where a new constitution was adopted August 18, 1889. While Zion Church was incorporated in 1854, no record of the act could be found, and it was therefore reincorporated October 8, 1889, and admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod in the following year.

At that time it was already a great congregation of 1450 members. A frame schoolhouse was built in 1890, where services were held for a time. The cornerstone of the restored church was laid October 5, 1890, and the building dedicated by Pastor Glasow May 3, 1891. It was built of brick, with a high steeple, at a cost of $30,000. Despite heavy flood losses, all but $14,000 was provided at once. Lutheran books were then introduced into all departments of church work.

The next pastors were Rev. John Luepke, 1897-1899, and Rev. Hugo R. Erdmann, 1900-1914. At the beginning of the latter pastorate a brick parsonage was erected at 119 Jackson street for $10,000. In 1901 two more bells were added to the flood bell in the tower. The interior of the church was remodelled in 1906, and a service of rededication was conducted by Pastor Erdmann November 11, 1906. By this time it was apparent that the parish could not be properly developed without the use of suburban chapels. Salem Chapel of Moxham was built for $6,400, and dedicated by Pastor Erdmann February 13, 1910. Bethany Chapel of Walnut Grove was bought from the United Brethren for $3,750, June 11, 1916, remodelled at a cost of $2,000, and dedicated by Pastor E. A. Tappert February 26, 1922. The cost of both chapels was financed by Zion. Sunday Schools and regular services are held in both places. An effort was made to organize the Germans of Ehrenfeld and Summer Hill in 1910, but this effort failed. In February of 1910 altar panels, painted by Doctor William Steinhauser of Frankfort, were presented by J. L. Tross in memory of the flood. The schoolhouse was replaced by a brick parish house at a cost of $32,000, and this was dedicated by Pastor Erdmann May 10, 1914.

When the schools of Salem and Bethany united with that of the parish house in a celebration, the seating capacity of Zion was taxed to the limit. Pastor Erdmann took a vacation trip to Europe soon after this dedication, and the parish was shocked

to learn of his death in London, July 30, 1914. With much difficulty his body was brought from war-disturbed England, and laid to rest in Grandview Cemetery.

His successor was Dr. Ernst A. Tappert, who began his labors here November 12, 1914. His son, Wilfried Tappert, was installed as his assistant, June 20, 1920. Under the ministry of the Tapperts there was a large development in the parish, especially in benevolence after the introduction of the duplex system.

From 1916 to 1917 Pastor F. J. Fuerst served as a congregational missionary. In 1918 the steeple of the church was struck by lightning, and it was found advisable to take it down. During the World War the service flag of Zion had 207 stars, of which 5 were gold. At the 70th anniversary of Zion, the mortgage was burned and another forward movement planned. The property at 613 Locust street was bought for $40,000, and used for the parsonage, but the chief purpose of the purchase was the future enlargement of the chancel of Zion.

When, in 1930, Dr. Tappert became Secretary of the Board of American Missions, Rev. Theodore Buch was called to Zion. The church was renovated in 1931 and a four manual Kilgen organ was secured.

Zion experienced another costly flood in March of 1936, and the necessary repairs were made to the damaged church, parsonage and parish house.

In 1946 Zion took a prominent part in the building of Camp Sequanota (Inter-synodical) near Jennerstown.

On February 26, 1950 the congregation celebrated the 20th anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Buch's tenure at Zion. Andrew J. Rehbogen was called to become assistant pastor in 1950. The hundredth Anniversary of the founding of Zion was celebrated June 22 to July 2, 1952. About $60,000 was spent in renovating and improving the properties of the church.

In July, 1955 Dr. Buch made a trip to Europe. On September 23, on his voyage home, he was called to eternal rest. His body was brought back to Zion and was laid to rest on October 5, 1955 in Grandview Cemetery.

Mr. Charles Young, President of Zion congregation for thirty-nine years, was called to his rest at the age of 89 on March 23, 1956. Zion, in her 104 years of history, has given to the full time service of the church ten men and two women. Miss Susan J. Glatz, Missionary to India and Principal of Schade Girls' High School in Rajahmundry, is a daughter of Zion and is supported by the Pittsburgh Synodical Society.

The following men have served Zion church: Theobald Kleis, 1852-1853; C. C. A. Brandt, 1853-1855; H. S. Lasar, 1855-1856; Karl Kress, 1856-1859; W. Sick, 1859-1862; Carl Taubner, M. D., 1862-1876; Karl Knortz, 1876-1882; Herman Veith, 1882-1889; J. P. Lichtenberg, 1889; P. A. Glasow, 1889-1897; John Luepke, 1897-1899; H. R. Erdmann, 1900-1914; E. A. Tappert, D. D., 1914-1930; Wilfried Tappert (assistant), 1920-1930; Theodore Buch, 1930-1955; Andrew J. Rehbogen, 1956 —.

Kittanning St. John's 1825

THE old Indian village of Kittanning was one of the historic spots of western Pennsylvania in pioneer days. After its destruction by the soldiers of Colonel Armstrong in 1756, the site remained unimproved until 1803 (?) when the present town was laid out. Many Germans took up land in Kittanning Township at an early date, and some of them found a home in the new town. According to the court records, Matthias Reichert and Daniel Bauser were property owners in 1809, and Samuel and Michael Mechling in 1814. Whether Rev. J. C. Lamprecht or Rev. John Adam Mohler ever preached in Kittanning, when they were pastors of the Rupp Church, cannot be definitely determined; but there is evidence that Karl Moritz Zeilfels preached at "Limestone, Rupp's, and Kittanning" from 1824 to 1825, and it is to this pastor that the first provisional organization of the Lutherans of Kittanning is credited. The next pastor was Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichert, who took up his residence in Kittanning in 1827. The number of Lutherans in Kittanning at that time was so small that they attended services at the Rupp Church. On April 29, 1829, Pastor Reichert began to preach in the town, holding his services in private homes. His first communion service here was held April 1, 1831, when fourteen persons were confirmed and thirty-eight received the sacrament.

These were the founders of the old German church of Kittanning, out of whose successors the German-English Trinity Church was reorganized, from which in due course of time came St. John's. The communion services of Pastor Reichert were not generally attended by more than 20 or 30 members. When he removed to Philadelphia in 1837, the interest was at such a low ebb that services were allowed to lapse until 1845, when the congregation was reorganized at "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" by George F. Ehrenfeld. In 1830 the congregation had united with the Episcopalians in the erection of a brick church on Water street. This church was destroyed by a storm in 1845, after which services were held in the schoolhouse and elsewhere until the purchase of the old United Presbyterian Church in 1858. Pastor G. F. Ehrenfeld resigned in 1853, and his brother, A. C. Ehrenfeld of Worthington, was asked to supply the church with English preaching, while Michael Schweigert supplied them in German.

In 1854 the Pittsburgh Synod determined to establish a new mission with Kittanning as the center, but the lack of a suitable missionary caused the postponement of the undertaking for several years. From 1854 to 1858 Rev. William A. Passavant looked after the English interests of the church, and finally succeeded in organizing the "First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kittanning" May 13, 1858, with forty-seven members. When this congregation was legally incorporated September 12, 1866, it assumed the name of "St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kittanning." The two congregations, German and English, united in the purchase of the old U. P. Church on South Jacob street in 1858; which, after renovation, was dedicated in August of the same year. The morning service was held in German; the afternoon and evening services in English. The first constitution of the English congregation was adopted November 13, 1858; the second, June 1, 1905; and the third, February 11, 1919.

One of the brightest days in the history of St. John's was October 16, when John A. Earnest became pastor of Kittanning Mission, consisting of the Kittanning, Rupp, and Heilman congregations. Missionary aid was extended by the synod until 1864. St. John's shared the use of Trinity Church with the Germans until 1867, when a successful effort was made to secure a separate church. A lot on North Jefferson street, 66 x 165, was purchased from Aaron Shoop for $900 October 1,

1867. The new church was built of brick 45 x 70, at an approximate cost of $10,000, and used for the first time January, 1869. Financial stress and the synodical controversy interfered seriously with building operations so that the church was not dedicated until September 28, 1873. Pastor John Earnest voted with the General Synod party at Greenville, and the Rupp and Heilman congregations supported him in his course; but St. John's voted in favor of the General Council, accepting the services of Henry W. Roth as supply pastor when Pastor Earnest resigned December 1, 1867.

The synodical upheaval necessitated a rearrangement of the churches of the district; and a new mission was formed of Kittanning, Natrona, and Springdale, Rev. John A. Kribbs took charge of this mission in 1868. For five years the pastor was required to give so much time to Natrona and Springdale that the work in St. John's suffered. After 1873, when Kittanning was made a separate mission, the congregation developed rapidly. When Pastor Kribbs resigned, May 3, 1878, he left a vigorous mission of 129 members. In 1879, the beginning of J. C. Kunzmann's pastorate, the church became self-sustaining.

On May 29, 1891, during the pastorate of H. W. Elson, Ph. D., a lot adjoining the ground, 33 x 165, was purchased for $1,000 from Mrs. Jane Ayers. On this lot the Bush Memorial parsonage was erected and presented to the congregation by Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Bush. One of the most successful pastorates in the history of St. John's was that of G. W. Spiggle, who served from 1894 to 1902. He built up a strong church of 325 members. Pastor Spiggle also organized mission stations at Mosgrove and Ford City, but neither issued in permanent congregations. Through all these years the German congregation continued to hold services in Trinity Church, being served by the following pastors: G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1845-1853; Michael Schweigert, 1853-1855; G. A. Reichert, 1855-1857; Michael Schweigert (second term), 1878-1885; Solomon Munsch, 1885-1888; Martin Gaudian, 1888-1889; A. E. R. Collman, 1890-1891; Robert Barner, 1891-1904. During much of this time the pastors of Trinity served churches in Freeport and Ford City.

In 1903 George U. Preuss became pastor of St. John's and overtures were then made for the merger of Trinity and St. John's. Trinity was sold to the Odd Fellows, and about 60 of the remaining members united with St. John's. Pastor Preuss never preached German in St. John's, but was able to meet the requirements of his German members in pastoral duties.

In 1910 a brick parish house, the first of its kind in the Pittsburgh Synod, was erected at a cost of $8,200. This building was dedicated January 23, 1911. Twice during this pastorate the church was thoroughly renovated, rededicated — October 23, 1904 and June 29, 1913.

During Pastor Preuss's tenure serious divisions occurred in the congregation. The fact that St. John's belonged to the General Council, while nearly all the strong congregations in the surrounding country belonged to the General Synod, was largely responsible for these divisions. In 1908 a number of General Synod Lutherans, who had moved into Kittanning, petitioned the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod for the organization of a church in Wickboro, on the ground that the grade crossings of the Pennsylvania Railroad made it dangerous for their children to attend Sunday School at St. John's. Student Bingaman, sent into the field to make a preliminary canvass, reported the names of more than a hundred Lutherans who were anxious for the organization of a church. A protest was made by St. John's, and the missionary Superintendent delayed action until the protest could be given consideration by the synod. Before such consideration could be given, the people pro-

ceeded independently to organize Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on October 11, 1908 with 70 members. This congregation dedicated a frame chapel that cost $2,114 September 19, 1909. For a while the congregation seemed to prosper, numbering 125 communicants, but it finally disbanded on February 24, 1918, the property reverting to the Board of Church Extension. Some of the members united with St. John's, some with St. Paul's, while others scattered. The following pastors served this Wickboro chapel: Lloyd W. Walter, 1909-1911; W. Roy Goff, 1911-1913; J. E. Lowe, Jr., 1914-1916.

A still more serious division in the ranks of St. John's occurred October 4, 1910, when ninety members withdrew and organized St. Paul's Church. This congregation held its first services in the old M. E. Church, and was received as a member of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod October 12, 1910. At the organization meeting the congregation resolved to be self-supporting and to send a call to Rev. Charles H. Tilp. Pastor Tilp accepted this call, and served from November 20, 1910 to March 18, 1917. Property on the corner of High and Jefferson streets was purchased in 1914, but the congregation never built a new church. E. E. Oney served them from November 11, 1917 to March 9, 1919, when he resigned in order that the merger of St. John's and St. Paul's might be effected.

This merger occurred February 11, 1919 when practically all the members of St. Paul's numbering about 200, were received as a body into the reunited St. John's. The property of St. Paul's was sold, and the cash balance was paid into the treasury of St. John's. The pastor of St. John's, Bernard Fetterly, remained pastor of the united congregation until December 1, 1921.

Early in the pastorate of Robert H. Thurau, Ph. D., plans were begun to renovate the parish house so that it could be more effectively used for Christian education. On April 24, 1955 this building, completely renovated and furnished at a cost of approximately $90,000, was rededicated by Dr. G. Lawrence Himmelman, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, and Pastor Thurau. The building has three functional floors. On the first floor is the Fellowship Hall with a modern kitchen at one end and rest rooms and a gas boiler room on the other. A sexton's work-room is also on the first floor.

On the second floor is the pastor's study and an adjoining church office. Here are the Nursery, Beginner, and Primary departments. On the third floor are the junior, intermediate, and senior departments, along with adult class rooms.

The church in 1955 had 1119 baptized members, 953 confirmed, and 648 communing members.

The following pastors have served St. John's: W. A. Passavant (supply), 1858-1859; John A. Earnest, 1859-1867; Henry W. Roth (supply), 1867-1868; John A. Kribbs, 1868-1878; J. C. Kunzmann, 1878-1882; J. H. A. Kitzmiller, 1882-1888; H. W. Elson, Ph. D., 1889-1893; G. W. Spiggle, 1894-1902; G. U. Preuss, 1903-1915; Bernard Fetterly, 1916-1921; H. D. Newcomer, D. D., 1922-1931; George N. Lauffer, D. D., 1931-1948; Robert H. Thurau, Ph. D., 1948 —.

Knox Emmanuel 1842

WHEN the Rev. George F. Ehrenfeld was pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Beaver Township, dissension arose between the English and the German elements of the congregation. Pastor Ehrenfeld was able to satisfy the English speaking members, but aroused the antagonism of the Germans. As a result he was locked out of St. Paul's by hostile trustees in February, 1842.

Those who agreed with Pastor Ehrenfeld withdrew from St. Paul's, and a new congregation, Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, was organized on February 25, 1842. A site was selected for a new church about one mile north of St. Paul's at a place called Beaver City. The cornerstone was laid on May 16, 1842, but the date for the dedication is not recorded.

This church building was still being used in 1876 when it was decided to erect a larger place of worship. An oil well was drilled on church property in 1877, and in eighteen months $2,840 in royalties was earned for the church building fund. Beaver City, like surrounding communities, was the scene of much oil drilling, and had become an oil town of 1000 people. The congregation decided that this should remain the location of the new church. The cornerstone was laid July 1, 1877, and the church was dedicated by Pastor A. C. Felker on October 7, 1877. The building was marked by a high tower, was of frame construction, and cost $6000.

The members of the congregation living in Pickwick were dissatisfied with the decision to rebuild in Beaver City, so they withdrew and dedicated St. Luke's Lutheran Church on March 10, 1878. This congregation flourished only while the oil boom lasted, but the church was not abandoned until September 19, 1917.

With the passing of the oil excitement Beaver City lost most of its population, so the Emmanuel congregation voted to move to Knox, also known as Edenburg. In 1889 the church at Beaver City was torn down and rebuilt in Knox at a cost of $2000. The cornerstone was laid September 1, 1889, and the building was rededicated by the Rev. H. B. Winton on February 9, 1890. The congregation grew and in 1915 it was decided that a new structure was needed. The cornerstone of the present church, a fine brick building costing $11,000, was laid September 10, 1916. It was dedicated free of debt by Pastor J. A. Boord June 3, 1917.

During most of the time prior to August 1, 1918, Emmanuel formed a parish with the Salem Lutheran Church at Lamartine. On that date Emmanuel was joined with St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Beaver Township to form the Knox Lutheran Parish. The Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Licking Township, was added to this parish in 1944.

The longest pastorate in Emmanuel's history was that of the Rev. Edwin B. Boyer who served fifteen years, 1927-1942. During this pastorate basement rooms were provided for Sunday School classes and church activities. The interior of the church was changed and dedicated in 1936 and beautiful altar furnishings were acquired. The use of robes by the choir and the pastor was introduced, and the Common Service was adopted as the order of worship in 1938.

The 100th anniversary of Emmanuel Church was observed on Reformation Sunday, Nov. 1, 1942, during the pastorate of the Rev. C. Thornton Hays. The anniversary offerings were set aside as the beginnings of an organ fund. It was not until 1949 that sufficient funds were available for the purchase of an organ. In that year a Wurlitzer organ and Maas cathedral chimes were dedicated.

In 1953 the church basement was enlarged and completely renovated. This project provided a new heating system and well planned facilities for the church school and social activities. The cost, $10,000, almost equalled the amount spent for the complete church building when it was erected in 1916-1917.

Emmanuel's pastors were: George E. Ehrenfeld, 1842-1845; J. G. Donmeyer, 1845-1847; Joseph Welker, 1848-1853; J. G. Ellinger, 1853-1854; Nathan Paltzgroff, 1854-1857; W. B. Bachtell, 1858-1861; J. Q. Waters, 1861-1862; J. B. Fox, 1862-1868; J. F. Dietterich, 1868-1872; Peter Gheen, 1872-1873; C. S. Coates, 1873-1876; A. C. Felkner, 1877-1879; E. H. Dornblaser, 1879-1881; J. A. Hartman, 1882-1884; J. F. Herhiser, 1884-1890; Shile Miller, 1892-1895; J. E. F. Hassinger, 1895-1899; S. E. Smith, 1899-1905; F. J. Howard, 1906-1908; A. M. Himes, 1909-1914; J. A. Boord, 1915-1918; A. M. Hahn, 1918-1922; J. M. Axe, 1922-1927; Edwin B. Boyer, 1927-1942; C. Thornton Hays, 1942-1946; Lewis R. Fox, 1946 —.

Knox Mt. Zion 1846

THE first services of the Mt. Zion congregation were held in 1843 in the log cabin home of Christopher Over by Pastor George Frederick Ehrenfeld who organized the church on May 19, 1846. The next year two acres of land were donated by Mr. Over to a Reformed and Lutheran group for the erection of a church and for burial purposes. The deed was dated and the congregation was incorporated January 5, 1847. The cornerstone of the first church was laid May 20, 1847 and the building was dedicated by Pastor William Uhl on December 12, 1847.

The two congregations worshipped together until 1883, when the Reformed group sold their interest to the Lutherans and built a church on adjacent ground. In 1910 the Reformed Church disbanded and the remaining 19 members united with the Lutherans.

Beginning in the early twenties services were supplied by pastors of the Knox Lutheran Parish. In 1926 the congregation debated for several months the wisdom of continuing to hold services. However, under the leadership of supply Pastor Edwin B. Boyer, the congregation was kept together, encouraged and strengthened.

The 100th Anniversary of Mt. Zion was celebrated in June, 1946 during the pastorate of the Rev. C. Thornton Hays. Two years prior to this, in 1944, the congregation became an integral part of the Knox Lutheran Parish, through the invitation of the St. Paul's and Emmanuel congregations, and the approval of the Pittsburgh Synod.

The steadily declining rural population has reduced the congregation considerably in numbers, but the loyalty and faithfulness of the remaining members perpetuates the spirit of the original founders.

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Licking Township, list of pastors; George F. Ehrenfeld, 1846; William Uhl, 1846-1848; Jeremiah Fishburn, 1849-1852; Joseph Welker, 1852-1853; Thomas Steck, 1854-1856; J. B. Breckenridge, 1856-1859; A. S. Miller, 1860-1864; W. E. Crebs, 1866-1869; Samuel Stouffer, 1869-1870; J. W. Reese, 1871-1872; D. W. Leitzell, 1873-1882; J. K. Bricker, 1883-1884; J. L. Metzgar, 1885-1891; B. E. Shaner, 1891-1897; S. A. Zimbeck, 1898-1901; J. C. McGauhey, 1902-1906; A. M. Himes, 1907-1909; J. J. Schriver, 1910-1912; W. D. Nicoll, 1912-1914; J. A. Howe, 1914-1919; H. A. Seel, 1921-1922; William Weicksel, 1922-1923; J. M. Axe, 1925-1927; Edwin B. Boyer, 1927-1942; C. Thornton Hays, 1942-1946; Lewis R. Fox, 1946 —.

Knox St. Paul's 1813

ST. PAUL'S Church was founded by a group of German settlers who were among the earliest pioneers of Clarion County. The first to come into this vicinity were two brothers, Henry and Harold Best, who arrived and erected cabins in 1801. On January 9, 1813 a group of interested persons including Jacob Graaf, Jacob Alt, John Toman, John Kuhnse, George Dillow and William Best, Jr., met in the home of Henry Best. They arranged for the purchase of two acres of his land to be used for the erection of a church and the establishment of a burial ground. Both were to be used jointly by the Reformed and the Lutherans. The first church, a log structure, was erected in 1813. In 1825 a larger frame church was built.

The first Lutheran pastor to minister to this congregation was the Rev. Peter Rupert, a traveling preacher sent out by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in the summer of 1814. The first regular pastor was the Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichert, who visited St. Paul's as a traveling preacher in the summer of 1822, and served as pastor from April 6, 1823 to May 15, 1831.

The successor of Pastor Reichert was the Rev. Henry David Keyl who lived at nearby Shippenville, 1830-1839, and traveled far and wide in his ministry to the Germans of Clarion County. In 1831 he reported the following congregations under his care — Shippenville, State Road, Beaver, Licking, Red Bank and Yeaney's. He usually preached once a month at St. Paul's, but always in German. For this reason many of the people were dissatisfied, and appealed to the West Pennsylvania Synod in 1838 to send them a minister who could use both languages. This desire was fulfilled in December, 1840, when Rev. George Frederick Ehrenfeld became their pastor. He, too, made his home in Shippenville.

Pastor Ehrenfeld was able to satisfy the English element in the congregation. However, he antagonized the German element and in 1842 the trustees locked the door of the church against him. As a result Pastor Ehrenfeld and his followers withdrew from St. Paul's and organized the Emmanuel Lutheran Church at nearby Beaver City on February 25, 1842.

After this division the congregation turned to the Ohio Synod for their pastors and were in the fellowship of that body from 1842 to 1873.

On August 2, 1845, Henry Best agreed to donate a plot of seven acres to St. Paul's, St. Peter's and St. Luke's Churches for a parsonage. He also agreed to give $50 provided that a suitable house were built at once, and provided further that no persons should be allowed to occupy it "except they be Lutheran ministers who belong to a Lutheran Synod of the Old School, who believe in the Augsburg Confession and all the symbolic writings of the Lutheran Church, and who are opposed to new measures in whatever shape or form they may be, such as the mourners bench and considering prayer meetings to be the only means to attain salvation". The first pastor to occupy the parsonage was the Rev. C. G. Stuebgen who ministered at St. Paul's from 1844 to 1847. The first parsonage was replaced by a more substantial frame building in 1889.

During the pastorate of the Rev. August Bernhard Bierdemann a constitution was adopted October 5, 1855. This constitution required the pastor to belong to some orthodox Lutheran Synod in America and made the following declaration on the language question — "This congregation is German and shall always remain German, but this shall not be interpreted as forbidding the use of the English language in the services".

The larger part of the English membership left the congregation in 1842 when Emmanuel Church was organized. However, during the next generation another equally strong English element arose which made the same insistent demands for English preaching. When these demands were not heeded, many of the younger people went over to the Reformed congregation.

The first stone church was dedicated in 1859 during the pastorate of the Rev. Anton Lachenmeier. This building was large and roomy, with a gallery around three sides and a high pulpit built against the wall. It was patterned after the old Westmoreland County churches, from which many of the pioneer settlers had originally come.

The last of the Ohio Synod pastors at St. Paul's was Rev. Peter Engers who served thirteen years, 1860-1873. He was compelled to leave by the growing English element. After long contention, during which a number of the young people left the congregation, a new Pastor, the Rev. J. B. Fox was elected. The followers of Pastor Engers then withdrew from St. Paul's and formed the German Lutheran Church at nearby Blair's Corners. From this time on, St. Paul's has been served by pastors from the Pittsburgh Synod, under the following parish relations — St. Paul's, St. Petersburg and Emlenton 1873-1879; St. Paul's and Emlenton, 1879-1887; St. Paul's, Emlenton, and Tidioute, 1887-1889; St. Paul's and St. Petersburg, 1889-1894; St. Paul's, St. Petersburg, and Emlenton, 1894-1901; St. Paul's, 1901-1919; St. Paul's and Emmanuel at Knox, 1919. Mt. Zion of Licking Township was added to form the Knox Lutheran Parish in 1944.

At a congregational meeting January 1, 1904 it was decided to build a new church, leaving the question open as to whether it should be union or Lutheran. At a joint meeting of the Reformed and Lutheran congregations, September 17, 1904, it was decided that each group should build a new church, that neither of the two churches should be built on the original plot, and that the old stone church should not be torn down for five years or until the new churches were completed.

The Lutherans acted promptly and bought one acre of ground above the cemetery from John H. Best December 31, 1904. The pastor during this period, the Rev. D. B. Stahlman, died after suffering a stroke in the pulpit. For this reason the cornerstone was laid by a supply pastor, Rev. M. L. Zweizig, July 15, 1906. The completed building, one of the finest rural churches in the Synod, was dedicated by the Rev. E. G. Lund June 30, 1907. The offerings and pledges made at the dedication services amounted to about $1500. This, together with what had already been contributed, covered the entire cost of the new building.

The longest pastorate in the history of St. Paul's has been that of the Rev. Edwin B. Boyer, who served fifteen years from 1927 to 1942. Under his leadership the citizens of the area built a stone road to the churches so that services could be held regularly even during the muddy seasons of the year. He was also instrumental in organizing the St. Paul's Union Cemetery Association which made the church burial ground a place of great beauty. During Rev. Boyer's pastorate a full basement was excavated beneath the church building to provide space for Sunday School class rooms and congregational activities. The use of robes by the choir and the pastor was introduced, and the Common Service was adopted as the order of worship in 1938.

Still a rural church in an area where farming as an industry has been steadily declining, St. Paul's continues to be a strong and active congregation. Through the

years the church has moved forward with the times, adapting its program to the needs of the day, improving its facilities and adding to its equipment in order to serve its people effectively. Outside, ornamental trees and parking space for automobiles now occupy the ground once used for wagon sheds. Inside, shining hardwood, rich carpeting and inlaid tiles cover old floors worn smooth by the coming and going of many worshippers. A Hammond organ was installed on Easter Sunday, 1954. The worship center, with its beautiful Ascension window, was made even more impressive during 1956 by the installation of an oak reredos and matching oak paneling in the chancel.

The present generations have shown a true appreciation of the loyalty and sacrifice which charactized the original founders. An earnest effort has been made to preserve and perpetuate the heritage received from the fathers.

St. Paul's pastors were: Peter Rupert (Traveling Missionary), 1814; J. M. Steck (Occasional Visitor), 1815-1818; Peter Rupert (Occasional Visitor), 1818-1821; G. A. Reichert, 1822-1831; H. D. Keyl, 1831-1840; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1840-1842; Supplies, 1842-1844; C. G. Stuebgen, 1844-1847; J. E. W. Braasch, 1847-1851; A. B. Bierdemann, 1853-1856; Anton Lachenmeier, 1857-1860; Peter Engers, 1860-1873; J. B. Fox, 1873-1887; Jacob Ash, 1888-1897; Ludwig Beisecker, 1897-1902; D. B. Stahlman, 1903-1905; M. L. Zweizig (Supply), 1906; Emil G. Lund, D. D., 1906-1907; W. A. Zundel, 1908-1909; F. E. Stough, 1910-1912; C. E. Read, 1912-1916; A. M. Hahn, 1917-1922; John M. Axe, 1922-1926; Edwin B. Boyer, 1927-1942; C. Thornton Hays, 1942-1946; Lewis R. Fox, 1946 —.

Latrobe (Trauger) St. Paul's 1782

(See Plate 24)

THIS is one of the four churches that composed the original parish of the pioneer Lutheran pastors of Westmoreland County. When sturdy German settlers were building their first log cabins in the wilderness of Hempfield Township, others were engaged in a similar task around the foothills of Chestnut Ridge. When Rev. Johann Wilhelm Weber, pioneer Reformed pastor, visited western Pennsylvania in the summer of 1782, he preached trial sermons at Pittsburgh, Brush Creek, Harrold's, and Mount Pleasant Township, and became pastor of those congregations in 1783. The testimony of Dr. Nicholas P. Hacke of the Reformed Church is that the Mount Pleasant Township congregation referred to was St. Paul's. Since St. Paul's Church extended a regular call to Pastor Weber, there must have been some kind of an organization; and this organization recognized the equal rights of Lutheran and Reformed from the beginning.

The first Lutheran pastor to preach for this congregation was Rev. Anton Ulrich Luetge, who came to Westmoreland in the spring of 1782. The first synodical record of Rev. Luetge's parish includes the Greensburg, Harrold's, Brush Creek, and Ridge churches; and there is reason to believe that he preached at the Ridge as early as Rev. Weber. No reference is made to these four churches of Rev. Luetge in the synodical record of 1782 for the reason that this pastor began his work here as a layman. He was refused ordination by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1785, but was granted a license by the same body in 1788. Since he left Westmoreland County in 1789, six of the seven years of his pastorate were spent without synodical recognition. This does not alter the evident fact, however, that he was the accepted pastor of the Ridge church from 1782 to 1789.

The name Ridge was applied to the church because its members lived near the western base of Chestnut Ridge. Later it was called Frey's after a family

which lived in the vicinity of the second church. The first log church was located about one and a half miles east of the present St. Paul's on the farm of Casper Weaver, a relative of the first Reformed pastor. It was a well established tradition that Rev. Weber preached his trail sermon in it on the occasion of his first visit. It was little more than a rude log schoolhouse, such as was erected in each of the German settlements of that day.

"Some time in 1790, a desire was expressed by a few people for better church accommodations, and for a permanent location for a church and graveyard. Three locations were proposed; the old site where the log church stood, one on the Pollins farm west of the present church, and the present site. This selection was therefore a compromise, as it was considered more central. The land was owned by Henry Clever, adjoining lands of John Spielman, John Griffin and others. The deed was made to Matthias Ringle, Christian Lobingier, Jacob Christman, and Rudy Baer, trustees, in trust for St. Paul's Church, June 6, 1796, for three and a half acres of land, for the consideration of 5 pounds 17s 6d. In 1833 the trustees made an exchange of 205 perches of land with Michael Fry and Regina, his wife, for the same number of perches, in order to straighten their lines and get their plot of land in better shape."

The second church was built on this new site before the close of the eighteenth century. "This church was built of logs, and was for a long time without altar or pews. Subsequently, through the exertions of some of the leading members, these were supplied. Afterwards the building was also plastered on the outside, which made it for a time look more respectable."

The Lutheran pastor, at the time of the dedication of the second church, was Rev. John M. Steck, who conducted services in German once every month from 1791 to 1829. He saw but little of the Indian troubles of the settlers, since these were definitely stopped in 1794, but was compelled to endure many hardships in order to minister to the scattered people. Much of his time was spent in the saddle. It is to be regretted that the old Church Book, in which his ministerial acts were recorded, was lost during the Civil War.

His successor was Rev. Jonas Mechling, who served as regular pastor, 1829-1848, and as supply, 1848-1855. During the pastorate of Rev. Mechling the third church was dedicated. The cornerstone was laid, June 17, 1846, and the church dedicated by Pastors Hacke and Mechling in the fall of the same year. It was built of brick, 44 x 65, at a cost of $5,000; and was considered one of the best churches in the county at that time.

After the resignation of Dr. Harkey in 1882, Mount Pleasant Parish was divided; and St. Paul's Church with a membership of 140 undertook to support a pastor alone. Rev. A. D. Potts served as the pastor, 1883 to 1896, during which he built up a strong congregation. During this pastorate the congregation was incorporated, and a small frame parsonage was purchased in Pleasant Unity for $1,700. Student E. M. Potts spent the summer of 1896 with the congregation; and then a call was extended to Rev. Jesse Dunn.

Before Pastor Dunn resigned, the two congregations worshipping in St. Paul's Church agreed to a friendly separation. The old church was unsafe for use; and it was sold to Adam Siemon. The last Lutheran service in this church was conducted by Rev. Jesse Dunn March 30, 1902. The cemetery was still held in common by the two congregations; but the church lot was divided, and the Reformed at once built a new church on their part. The Lutherans then purchased a six-acre tract on the opposite side of the road for $1,500, the purchase price being given to the trustees by Joseph C. Koontz in the form of an annuity. Plans were secured for a

modern church. This church was dedicated by the former pastor, Rev. Jesse Dunn, assisted by Dr. W. J. Miller and Rev. G. W. Spiggle, May 1, 1904. It was built of brick and stone at a cost of $17,500. The Pleasant Unity parsonage was sold for $1,500 May 28, 1906, and a brick parsonage was erected on the church ground during the pastorate of Rev. Frank P. Bossart at a cost of $6,000.

During the pastorate of the Rev. H. J. Behrens the basement of the church was excavated, all the labor being donated by the men of the Church, which provided a kitchen, furnace room and one large room for Sunday School and social purposes. A pipe organ costing $3,500.00 was installed in 1924.

During the summer of 1942 an addition was built on the rear of the church building providing a choir room and organ chamber. The organ was removed from the chancel. The total cost being about $3,000.00.

At this present time, April 16, 1956, plans are in progress to erect an educational building to cost about $100,000.00.

A complete list of pastorates is as follows: Anton Ulrich Luetge, 1782-1789; John M. Steck, 1791-1829; Jonas Mechling, 1829-1855; I. O. P. Baker, 1855-1862; G. W. Busby, 1863-1869; Enoch Smith, 1869-1873; S. L. Harkey, D. D., 1874-1883; A. D. Potts, Ph. D., 1883-1896; Jesse Dunn, 1896-1903; D. W. Michael, 1904-1907; F. P. Bossart, 1907-1916; C. E. Dozer, 1916-1921; H. J. Behrens, 1921-1932; William A. Zundel, 1933-1937; E. Stewart Proper, 1938-1941; Myron E. Cole, 1942 —.

Latrobe Trinity 1865

THE beginnings of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, go back to 1862. A few German Lutheran families appealed to Rev. George Mechling of Greensburg, Pa., then pastor of the Ligonier Parish, to assist them in the organization of a congregation and to conduct worship services.

Pastor Mechling began worship services in the United Presbyterian Church. Services were conducted every two weeks. The German and the English languages were used on alternate Sundays.

The congregation was organized temporarily in 1864 and was made permanent on April 14, 1865. Shortly thereafter Pastor Mechling resigned as pastor of the Ligonier Parish. On June 6, 1865 the cornerstone was laid for the first church on a lot donated by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Weis. The pastor was then the Rev. Daniel Worley, whose pastorate was less than a year because of ill health.

A Call was extended to the Rev. J. H. Smith on August 5, 1865, which he accepted a few weeks later. He was installed as pastor of Trinity Church on January 1, 1866, on the day the new building was dedicated at a cost of about $3,000.

During Pastor J. L. Smith's ministry a new charter was issued by which "the title and rights of the congregation were fully established and its doctrinal position was clearly set forth". The congregation was also admitted into the Pittsburgh Synod.

Dr. Smith resigned April 1, 1892. At the close of his pastorate, Trinity Church, Latrobe and St. James, Youngstown, severed themselves from the New Derry and Ligonier congregations and were constituted a new parish.

The Rev. I. K. Wismer was called as the first pastor of the new parish. He began his work on June 1, 1892. During his pastorate, the congregation's dream came true with the building of a larger church building. (The present church.) The new building was dedicated on March 13, 1898.

During the summer of 1899 the present parsonage was built, costing $3,000.

In 1902 Trinity became a separate parish with the Rev. Mr. Wismer pastor. He resigned the parish in 1906 to accept a Call to St. Paul's Church, Uniontown, Pa.

On June 7, 1909 the Rev. L. J. Baker became the pastor. Under his leadership the congregation grew rapidly. Services were conducted not only in English but also, once a month, in Slavish by the Rev. H. Havel of Manor, Pa.

Pastor Baker edited the "Latrobe Lutheran", a monthly parish paper of 26 pages, which was published and financed by the Brotherhood of the congregation.

Many improvements were made in the church plant during the period of Pastor Baker's ministry. Within six years the membership was almost doubled. Because of this fact, the congregation saw the need of additional space and a Sunday School building fund was established.

Equal evidence of Pastor Baker's influence was in the fact that four young men made their decision to prepare for the Gospel ministry during his pastorate. These are: Paul Weber, Edward Rogers, Herbert Brant and Samuel Gross.

The Rev. John B. Gardner, D. D., began his pastorate on February 1, 1927. During Dr. Gardner's pastorate, the seed planted 15 years before was brought to fruition, with the erection of the present parish house. The cornerstone was laid on October 19, 1929 and the building dedicated on June 1, 1930.

Numerous developments were accomplished during the pastorate of Dr. Gardner. The volunteer choir was organized, vestments were acquired, the chancel rearranged, the altar beautified with vases and candelabra and lights installed "to carry out a scheme of simple, dignified beauty".

But a more important factor can be noted while Dr. Gardner was pastor, namely, a thorough educational program was followed: a vacation church school was started in 1928; catechetical instruction was stressed; and great emphasis "on adult instruction and the tightening of requirements for membership" were in evidence.

On January 1, 1947 the Rev. Karl Kniseley began a most energetic ministry at Trinity. During these seven and one half years "1,437 souls were brought into the life of the parish: 648 children and 789 adults. A program of lay-evangelism, known as "Ambassador", was organized. The hope of the congregation, for a new church plant, was brought to a nearer reality through the establishment of a building fund called, "Trinity Beautiful". A building committee was appointed and the matter of a new edifice and additional educational facilities was seriously studied and plans drawn according to the needs of the congregation. The steps toward a new church were halted with the resignation of Pastor Knisley on August 1, 1954.

The fifth and sixth sons of the congregation entered schools of higher education to prepare for the ministry while Pastor Kniseley served Trinity. These are Pastors Richard Sowers and Ronald Brant.

Trinity's membership has grown from 27 confirmed members in 1865 to 1777 in 1956. Because of the size of the congregation, two services have been conducted since 1931. During Pastor Kniseley's pastorate the 8:30 Matins have been broadcast over the local radio station every Sunday and continue to this date.

The congregation is looking forward to 1965, their one hundredth anniversary when it is their earnest expectation to dedicate a new church edifice costing approximately $500,000.

The following pastors have served Trinity: G. W. Mechling, 1862-1865; Daniel Worley, 1865; J. H. Smith, 1865-1873; A. D. Potts, 1875-1876; H. L. McMurray, 1877-1882; J. L. Smith, D. D., 1882-1892; I. K. Wismer, 1892-1906; C. H. Hemsath, 1907-1909; L. J. Baker, 1909-1926; John B. Gardner, D. D., 1927-1946; Karl Kniseley, 1947-1954; John L. Reiner, 1955 —; R. Lee Mull, (assistant), 1958 —.

Leechburg Bethel 1899

THIS community was visited by Dr. C. B. King early in 1899, and Bethel was organized by him May 14, 1899 with thirty members. A corner lot was donated by the Hyde Park Land Company on which a frame church was erected at a cost of $2,000. The cornerstone was laid October 7, 1899 and the church was dedicated debt free by Dr. King January 28, 1900.

During the summer of 1901 the congregation built a parsonage at a cost of $1,400. For many years this church was supported as a local mission of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod; then it was connected with Bethel Church of Armstrong county to form a self-sustaining parish. Since 1918, however, it has been served by the pastors of Grace Church, Leechburg. This parish is restricted to the town of Hyde Park, but it is the church of the community and fills a large place in its religious life.

During the pastorate of W. E. Sullivan an altar, cross, vases, and candle holders have been placed in the church.

The following pastors have served this church: J. A. Flickinger, 1900; J. H. Diehl, 1901-1902; P. T. E. Stockslager, 1903-1904; W. W. Frey, 1904-1905; J. W. Poffinberger (supply), 1905-1908; E. F. Dickey, 1908-1911; Elmer Kahl, 1912-1913; J. F. Booher, 1914-1918; T. A. Himes, D. D., 1918-1920; H. K. Shanor, 1920-1924; H. A. Seel, 1924-1928; K. S. Ehrhart, 1928-1935; L. W. Heilman, 1935-1936; W. E. Sullivan, 1936-1957; J. W. Roth, 1957 —.

Leechburg First 1814

(See Plate 24)

WHILE the organization which bears this name was developed by Rev. Jonathan Sarver during the stormy days of the synodical controversy, its roots go back to the days of the pioneers. The Zimmermans, Kepples, Hawks, Hills, Artmans, Klingensmiths, Shaners, and others, who now worship before its altar, are lineal descendants of those sturdy pioneers, who laid the foundations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kiskiminetas region before the close of the eighteenth century. Many of them speak of First Church as a true successor of the old Klingensmith Church, established on the Westmoreland side of the river under the ministry of the Stecks.

When the Pittsburgh Synod divided in 1867, a portion withdrawing and joining in the organization of the General Council, Rev. Sarver went out with that portion. Rev. Sarver and his people built a new church at a cost of $5,000. The ground on which the church now stands was a donation from him. In the meantime Rev. Sarver built a parsonage and it remained his own property until June 20, 1881 when it was sold to the congregation for a consideration of $1,150. The acting trustees of the congregation were Jacob Kepple, Michael Spang, Levi McCreary, James A. Cogley, Martin Thounhurst, and Winchester Hill. The cornerstone of the church was laid, July 16, 1872, after a sermon by Dr. Henry W. Roth. The completed church was dedicated, November 16, 1872, when Pastor Sarver assisted by Dr. J. A. Kunkelman, Dr. W. A. Passavant, Rev. J. H. A. Kitzmiller, Rev. V. B. Christy, and Rev. J. K. Melhorn. It was built of brick, 40 x 70, and faced on Main street. The furnishings of this church were of the simplest. Large coal oil lamps furnished the illumination at night. The pews were low-backed, straight-backed and uncushioned. There was no bell or pipe organ, the windows unstained. The chairs in the pulpit were ordinary

cane-seated ones, and in addition there was a hair-cloth sofa. Pastor Sarver resigned in the spring of 1883.

His successor was Rev. William J. Miller, who served from July 29, 1883, to June 30, 1894. During his pastorate there were large additions to the membership and many improvements to the property. When he took charge of the parish this church was connected with Zion and St. Paul's. Due to the growth in membership the parishes of Zion and St. Paul's were separated from this charge and evening services were made possible. This pastor also introduced the Lutheran order of service, as given in the Church Book. The constitution recommended by the General Council was adopted, February 23, 1884, and a charter obtained, December 1, 1884, adopting the name of "The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Leechburg, Armstrong County, Pa."

After the resignation of Pastor Miller a call was extended to Rev. Elmer F. Krauss in the early part of 1894. The envelope system was introduced February 10, 1895. This pastorate closed May 1, 1900 when Pastor Krauss was called to a professorship in Chicago Seminary and a long vacancy ensued.

The next pastor was Rev. M. L. Zweizig, whose pastorate extended from February 3, 1901 to January 31, 1909. At a congregational meeting March 28, 1903, it was decided to build a new stone church. The last service in the old church was held June 14, 1903, and Kirkpatrick Hall and the Methodist Church were used until the new building was ready for occupancy. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor Zweizig, September 20, 1903, the chief address being delivered by Dr. George M. Heindel, pastor of Hebron Church. The services of dedication were held, October 30, 1904, Drs. David H. Geissinger and William J. Miller preaching the sermons. The church was built of Hummelstown brown stone, 60 x 112, and arranged in such a manner that the entire Sunday School room was made available as an annex to the auditorium. The chancel was arranged according to the historic Lutheran order, and furnished with rich and churchly memorials. The Austin pipe organ, together with a number of memorials that were not in use on dedication day, were dedicated by Pastor Zweizig, May 12, 1907. The cost of the organ was $2,500, half of which was donated by Andrew Carnegie. The entire cost of the church plant was $31,000. At the close of his pastorate Pastor Zweizig left not only a fine church property, but also a united and devoted congregation of more than four hundred members.

The next pastor was Rev. Frederick A. Reiter, who served from September 26, 1909, to October 1, 1920. This pastorate was also rich, and resulted in building up a strong and efficient congregation of 606 confirmed members. The publication of "The Tidings" began in February, 1910, and did much to strengthen the organization, especially in the Sunday School. A chime of ten cast bells, installed in the tower at a cost of $6,000 was dedicated by Pastor Reiter, October 30, 1910. The fine brick parsonage adjoining the church, complete and modern in all its appointments, was erected in 1913 at a cost of $7,000.

The next pastor was Dr. William H. Shepfer who served from 1921 to 1926. On May 9th, 1924 the church basement was re-opened after having been improved by excavation, changed entrances, etc. costing over $4,000. It was in this same year that the Kock-Shuster Memorial window, in memory of John Kock and James Shuster who gave their lives for their country during World War I, and the Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Zimmerman Memorial window were placed.

The Rev. Herbert T. Neve, became pastor in May 1927. While this pastorate was the shortest in the history of First Church, it brought into being an organization

that continues to function. It was directly under the fostering care of the pastor that our church troop of Boy Scouts of America was organized. Rev. Neve closed his work here on October 31st, 1929.

On the first day of May, 1930, the Rev. William F. Pfeifer, Sr., became pastor. Early in 1930 the window over the altar was rebuilt and other church windows repaired. Later in 1930 a new roof was placed over the rear of the church. In March 1936 the most terrible flood ever to hit the Kiski Valley caused flood waters to fill completely the church basement and it rose into the front part of the church room, covering the first step into the chancel. In 1936 and 1937 the new lighting system was installed at a cost of almost $2,000. In 1937 the interior of the church was redecorated at a total cost of over $2,100. In 1939 new carpet was purchased and the chancel brass was replated with 14 karat gold at a total expenditure of near $3,000. Rev. Pfeifer, Sr. closed his work in November, 1939.

The Rev. William F. Pfeifer, Jr. served the congregation from June 1st, 1940 to September 1, 1949. He was granted a leave of absence in February, 1943 to serve his country during World War II, returning home at the end of 1945. During his absence Pastors C. W. Barnett and Frank Snyder served as supply pastors. The pastor returned from the service of his country on December 16, 1945 at which time the electrification of the chimes was dedicated as a memorial for the men of First Church who died in the service of their country. Their names are William Edward Allen, Archie Oliver Artman, William Daniel Bowers, James Keith Held, Robert Samuel McMurray. In the summer of 1946 extensive repairs was made to the Church tower and all stone work was repointed at a total cost of $4,000. On April 27, 1947 Miss Ruth Kepple was commissioned as a Missionary to Liberia with her salary guaranteed by the congregation. Due to ill health she was forced to return home at the end of the first year. In 1949 new red and violet paraments were presented to the church.

The Rev. Robert E. Olson served the congregation from February 1, 1950 to March 15, 1956. In 1951 $1,500 was given to Lutherlyn to build a cabin. Considerable improvements to windows of the church were made and the basement was completely redecorated. In 1954 new green paraments were presented to the church. Our obligations to CHEY and Lutheran World Action were met in full. Folding doors at a cost of $1,000 were installed at the rear of the Sunday School room. In 1955 a leave of absence of three and a half months was granted the pastor to make a trip to Sweden, during which time Student Pastor George Kenyon served the congregation.

In the spring of 1956 a new roof was put on the church at a total cost of $8,500.

On July 1, 1956 the Rev. Mont O. Bowser became pastor.

Sons of the congregation who became ministers: Jacob Zimmerman, W. Chester Hill, and Everett Smail.

Sons of pastors who became ministers: Robert Zimmerman, Paul Krauss, Luther D. Miller, H. Reed Shepfer, Wm. F. Pfeifer, Jr., Wahl Pfeifer, and Edmund Pfeifer.

The following pastors served this church: John Michael Steck, 1796-1817; John Adam Mohler, 1817-1823; G. A. Reichert, 1824-1834; Michael John Steck, 1834-1841; Jacob Zimmerman, 1841-1860; Lewis M. Kuhns, 1860-1866; (Provisional membership in Hebron Church), Jonathan B. Sarver, 1866-1883; (Church reorganization 1868), Wm. J. Miller, 1883-1894; Elmer F. Krauss, 1894-1900; M. L. Zweizig, 1901-1909; F. A. Reiter; 1909-1920; W. H. Shepfer, 1921-1926; H. T. Neve, 1927-1929; Wm. F. Pfeifer, Sr., 1930-1939; Wm. F. Pfeifer, Jr., 1940-1949; Robert E. Olson, 1950-1956; Mont O. Bowser, 1956 —.

Leechburg Grace 1900

DURING the latter part of the pastorate of J. C. N. Park in Hebron Church, there was a dissension that required a special meeting of the Pittsburgh Synod. The trouble was settled by the synod, but a divisive sentiment remained that resulted in the organization of Grace Church July 21, 1900. A Sunday School of 130 members was organized July 29, 1900, and a Christian Endeavor Society at the same time.

Pastor Park served as the first minister of the congregation from September 9, 1900 to April 1, 1906. A number of persons active in the organization, returned to Hebron or were dismissed to First Church before the close of his pastorate.

Their first place of worship was Kirkpatrick Hall. In 1901 a lot was bought for $400 on which a frame church was built at a cost of $3,000. The first council meeting was held in the new church, December 11, 1902, but there is no record of its dedication. Application for admission to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod failed in 1905 and 1906, but the church was received in 1907.

The church basement was finished during the pastorate of H. A. Seel in 1925. During the pastorate of W. E. Sullivan a Wurlitzer electric organ was placed in the church as well as an altar, lectern, pulpit, cross, candle holders, and missal stand.

Grace has been served by the following pastors: J. C. N. Park, 1900-1906; J. W. Tressler, 1906-1907; William Hesse, D. D., 1907-1911; T. A. Himes, 1911-1920; H. K. Shanor, 1920-1924; H. A. Seel, 1924-1928; K. S. Ehrhart, 1928-1935; L. W. Heilman, 1935-1936; W. E. Sullivan, 1936-1957; J. W. Roth, 1957 —.

Leechburg Hebron 1814

(See Plate 25)

LUTHERANISM had its beginning in the area surrounding Leechburg in 1796 when the Rev. John M. Steck, pioneer missionary of Greensburg, added this territory to his mission field. That he was a pioneer is realized when the fact is noted that this was only 14 years after the burning of Hannastown, which was probably the most devastating Indian raid ever made into Westmoreland County. At first Pastor Steck preached here only once or twice a year in such places as were available, mostly in the home or barn of Jacob Klingenschmidt about two miles from Leechburg.

At the site of an early church erected in this area there is a memorial tablet placed on November 4, 1934 which reads in part:

"This tablet marks the site of a pioneer Lutheran and Reformed Church known as: 'Klingenschmidts', 'Tishgiminegas', 'Allegheny', or 'Salem'. Lutheran Services in this section began about 1796.

"The congregation was organized September 2, 1814 at the Jacob Klingenschmidt's farm, about one mile south of this point; where a log church was erected in 1820.

"A brick church was erected on this site about the same time; the land being donated by Daniel Frantz.

"After 1844 both groups worshipped in this church. The burial ground was used as early as 1810.

"The Reformed Congregation merged with the Lutherans in 1852. The Lutheran Congregation ceased to worship here May 26, 1860; after which time its life continued through the Lutheran Churches of Leechburg."

From 1796 to 1816 the Rev. J. M. Steck continued to make regular visits to the community and it was to him that the fathers of Leechburg looked for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

From 1817 to 1823 the Rev. John Adam Mohler preached at the several churches in this area as did the Rev. G. A. Reichert from 1824 to 1834.

When Reichert retired from the field, the Rev. Michael J. Steck son of the first pastor, arrived in the area and from the beginning was asked by the Lutherans of Leechburg to preach for them. The request was granted and services were held in a frame schoolhouse. In 1841 Pastor Steck resigned this part of his large parish and the Rev. Jacob Zimmerman preached his introductory sermon in Leechburg on July 24, 1841 and formally organized the congregation on July 17, 1842.

In the summer of 1844, Pastor Zimmerman ceased to serve the congregation in Leechburg and the Rev. David Earhart (grandfather of Amelia Earhart, pioneer aviatrix) became pastor. During Pastor Earhart's period of service the first church building in Leechburg was erected. The congregation authorized the building project on March 9, 1845. On the 30th of May, 1847 the Pittsburgh Synod being in session here, the Leechburg Lutheran Church was dedicated under the particular name Hebron by the Rev. Michael J. Steck. The Rev. W. A. Passavant preached the sermon. A charter was secured from the court of Armstrong County, June 22, 1848.

Pastor Lewis Marchand Kuhns (1854-1866), was a son of the congregation and a "tower of strength in Hebron". During this pastorate, Salem congregation located on what is now designated Pleasant Hill, entered into a provisional merger with Hebron. The "Leechburg Institute", an academy or high school for the purpose of affording "unto persons of both sexes, opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of the common and higher branches of education," was established. A catalogue of 1864-1865 shows an enrollment of 40 boys and 55 girls from Indiana, Pa., Wheeling, W. Va., Pittsburgh and many local students. The academy building served not only for school purposes but was the town center and was used for holding church services in the ensuing period.

The Rev. Johathan Sarver became pastor in 1866. In these years occurred the great rupture in the Lutheran Church which resulted in the two rival bodies, the General Council and the General Synod. Pastor Sarver held to the General Council and with a portion of members separated themselves from the group in 1867 and organized what is now called the First Lutheran Church of Leechburg. The Rev. H. H. Hall became pastor of the Hebron congregation which adhered to the General Synod and he served the congregation from 1868 to 1870.

The twelve years of Pastor Poffinberger's leadership deserves special notice. Under his leadership the membership grew to 491 and the present church building was built at a cost of $18,000 and was dedicated on September 9, 1888, free of debt. The same year action was taken to erect a parsonage which was built the following year. At the close of the century, the fast expanding steel operations gave rise to the new community of Vandergrift and Pastor Poffinberger became interested in the missionary challenge there. He resigned in July, 1897 to pursue work in this field.

The Rev. J. C. N. Park was the next pastor from 1898 to 1900, when friction in the parish resulted in the withdrawal of the pastor and a number of members and the Grace Lutheran Church of Leechburg was organized.

Dr. E. E. Blint had a pastorate of 24 years and "by a spirit rarely equalled, was able to build up a congregation of 724 confirmed members." The benevolences of Hebron Church under his leadership were an inspiration to the entire Pittsburgh Synod.

Dr. George E. Bowersox followed with a pastorate of 22 years. It was during this pastorate that the church facilities were enlarged for church school purposes.

Rev. George C. Vetter became pastor in June, 1952. During this pastorate, a new parsonage was erected replacing the one which had served as residence of the pastors for 65 years. A director of religious education was called in the person of Sister Edna C. Hill, a daughter of the congregation.

This congregation gave six sons to the ministry: Revs. L. M. Kuhns, W. K. Hill, B. E. Shaner, J. J. Hill, F. E. Smith, and George E. Bowersox, Jr. Two daughters entered the diaconate: Sister Edna C. Hill and Sister Elizabeth Knepshield.

Pastors who served Hebron since its formal organization in 1842 are: Jacob Zimmerman, 1842-1844; David Earhart, 1844-1853; G. F. Ehrenfeld (supply), 1853-1854; J. W. Cregelo, 1854; L. M. Kuhns (supply), 1855-1856; L. M. Kuhns, 1856-1866; Jonathon Sarver, 1866-1868; H. H. Hall, 1868-1870; F. T. Hoover, 1870-1881; Lewis Hay, 1881-1885; J. W. Poffinberger, 1885-1897; J. C. N. Park, 1898-1900; G. M. Heindel, D. D., 1900-1905; E. E. Blint, D. D., 1905-1929; George E. Bowersox, D. D., 1930-1952; George C Vetter, 1952 —.

Leetsdale St. Matthew's 1891

GERMAN Lutheran services were begun by Pastor Ivan Dietrich in 1882 in a schoolhouse on Camp Meeting Road, about two miles from Leetsdale. Seven years later, through the efforts of Henry Rosenbauer and Mrs. Conrad Ickes, services were begun in the Public Library of Leetsdale. These services continued until April 30, 1891, when Pastor Ivan Dietrich, met with a group at the home of William Bauman, and effected the organization of a church by the adoption of a temporary constitution. This temporary organization included twenty-six members.

The Harmony Society donated a lot on Beaver Road, between Rapp Street and Taylor Alley, as a site for the proposed church; but this was returned as unsuitable, and a lot on the corner of Broad and Rapp Streets was purchased for $500. Here the present church was erected at a cost of $1500, and dedicated by Pastor Dietrich on April 9, 1893. A charter was secured January 21, 1893.

During the early years, the congregation was connected with different neighboring churches in order to provide adequate support for a pastor, but later it was given the entire time of the missionary. In 1928 the home-mission church became self sustaining.

German was used exclusively in the early years of the church's existence. Then both German and English services were used until 1910. Since that time English alone has been the language employed. Unwillingness to relinquish German in both church and church school contributed much to the slow growth of this congregation in its early years and to its present day size which is small for the years of existence.

The Sunday School was organized in the spring of 1895 with William Werner as superintendent. During the pastorate of E. O. Graham the Sunday School was

graded, the envelope system was introduced and a new constitution, more in harmony with the charter of the congregation was adopted.

In 1919 the lot adjoining the church was purchased for $1350. A parsonage was erected on this site in 1925 at a cost of $7,800. In 1928 the church building was raised, moved back from Broad Street and a basement provided under it. The cost of this operation was approximately $3,000 about twice the cost of the original structure.

The organization of the various auxiliaries may be listed as follows, 1902 the Ladies' Aid Society, 1910 the Luther League, 1929 the Brotherhood and 1940 the Women's Missionary Society.

A Golden Jubilee was observed by St. Matthew's Church April 24-27, 1941 at which two charter members, Mr. Blasius Kaelin and Mrs. Elizabeth Wahl, were present. The Chief Anniversary Service was held April 27, 1941 with the President of Synod, The Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., delivering the Fiftieth Anniversary Sermon.

On December 18, 1954 the first new basement unit of the proposed new church building was dedicated. This is the first of three units to be constructed and joins the church and parsonage basements. The cost was approximately $15,000. Other improvements to the church and her Services include a Baldwin electronic organ, two automatic gas furnaces, new altar and altar brass, new pulpit, lectern and chancel furnishings.

In January, 1955 the Church School was again reorganized in accordance with the present recommendations of the Board of Parish Education. Administration of Parish Education is vested in the Parish Education Committee appointed by the Church Council. A Children's Secretary is a member of this committee. A week day Kindergarten was established in February of 1955. A Junior Church was organized in this same period.

The Pastoral Roll for St. Matthew's Church is as follows: Ivan Dietrich 1891-1901; Paul Kummer, 1902-1904; P. J. C. Glatzert, 1905-1910; Ernest O. Graham, 1910-1914; Louis W. Rupp, 1916-1919; Paul E. Porath, 1920-1922; Joseph R. Shuster, 1924-1927; Sidney E. Kuhn, 1928-1936; Paul E. Daugherty, 1936-1939; M. Rea Kunkelman, 1939-1942, and Eldon K. Rumberger, 1942 —.

Ligonier St. James' 1791

THIS historic community took its name from the old frontier fort erected in 1758 and named in honor of Sir John Ligonier of the English army. Fort Ligonier was built on the banks of the Loyalhanna within the limits of the present borough. Here one of the most decisive battles of the French and Indian War was fought defeating the conspiracy of Pontiac. A number of settlers decided to take up lands in the vicinity of the fort, since it was recognized as a great protection in the time of Indian uprisings. Some of these early settlers were Germans. These were later joined by other Germans and Dutch and French Hugenots who could speak German. The number of these was such as to attract the attention of Rev. John M. Steck.

There is a tradition to the effect that a church was organized by this pastor in 1790, but there is no supporting record. Steck did not come to Westmoreland County until 1791; and then for a while he seems to have concentrated his attention upon the churches of Greensburg, Harold's, Brush Creek, and Ridge. When Pastor Steck was given his first license to preach by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1796, he was permitted to serve the four churches named above and at Jacob's Creek and in Allegheny. If Pastor Steck preached at Brandt's in 1796, it was not one of his regular appointments. His missionary spirit, however, carried him into many communities far removed from the center of his parish; the records are silent. The first log church of the Brandt Settlement was built by Lutherans and Reformed sometime between 1818 and 1822.

The first official record of any Lutheran service in this community is found in the old Greensburg Church Book in the writing of Pastor John M. Steck. It is a record of the Communion Service of "both congregations of Ligonier Valley," June 15, 1817. The reference to both congregations is obscure, since it was not the custom of Pastor Steck to administer the Sacrament to the Reformed.

Pastor John M. Steck surrendered the care of the church to Pastor Jonas Mechling in 1820. Of Jonas Mechling Pastor Ulery wrote: "Rev. Mechling had just been licensed to preach, and therefore was only beginning his ministry here in connection with a few other points. He held only one service a month, as was the custom of that time, and gave catechetical instruction and had confirmation once in two or three years. He conducted his services all in German. This was a serious drawback to the success of his work, especially in the closing years of his pastorate, as the people were rapidly becoming anglicized. The fault was not that the people had too much German, but that there was no English for those who needed English services."

When Pastor Jonas Mechling was called to Greensburg Parish in 1848, he was compelled to surrender the care of the three churches of the valley to Pastor J. J. Suter, but this pastor could not meet the language problem successfully, and his pastorate lasted but one year. The next Pastor was Rev. Joseph R. Focht, who established the Ligonier congregation on a firm English basis. An English constitution was adopted in 1851, in which the congregation assumed for the first time the name it now bears. It was also at his suggestion that a good church site was secured in the town of Ligonier at a cost of $50. Here a brick church was built at a cost of $3,000. After its dedication, November 12, 1851, services in Brandt's were discontinued.

In 1867 a house with three acres of ground, a short distance north of the church, was bought for a parsonage. When Rev. J. L. Smith became Pastor in 1882, his refusal to occupy this parsonage led to the purchasing of ground adjoining

the church from W. H. Covode. Then came the question of investing money in improvements, while the congregation was bound by its charter to a Reformed congregation, which had ceased to exist in 1859. The Pastor was firm in his conviction that this union should be legally dissolved, and the result was that the Lutherans bought the interest of the Reformed and formed a new corporation. After this matter was settled, a parsonage was built for $3,000.

All of the churches of the Ligonier Parish united with the Pittsburgh Synod August 22, 1883. In 1892 the parish was divided; and Ligonier and Darlington were placed together. During the pastorate of Rev. A. H. Bartholomew, 1894-1898, plans were made for the erection of a better church. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor Bartholomew August 7, 1898 but the pastor resigned three weeks later. The building was dedicated by Pastor H. L. McMurray, during his second term, February 12, 1899. The new church was built on the old site, utilizing part of the walls of the old building. It was built of brick and stone, Queen Anne Style, at a cost of $9,000. The pipe organ was the gift of Andrew Carnegie; and the chancel furniture also was provided by friends not members of St. James'. Under Pastor C. A. Naumann, part of the parsonage property was sold, and the proceeds used for repairs. Under Pastor Theodore Buch the basement of the Church was completed for Sunday School work. A two-manual Moller pipe organ was installed at a cost of $4,00 and dedicated by Pastor Buch, October 14, 1923. The old organ was rebuilt in the Darlington Church.

In 1940 the entire floor of the nave was covered with new carpeting and a garage for the Pastor's use was added to the church property. During the pastorate of Harry B. Hull the exterior of the church was repointed and trim painted; the interior of the sanctuary was redecorated and a new roof was installed during this pastorate. New fluorescent lighting was installed in the basement of the church, new concrete floor laid; the interior of the church redecorated and the outside trim painted; in the annual congregational meeting in January, 1953 a fund was set up to provide a new parsonage. A Passavant League and a Luther League were organized and meet weekly; a mixed young couples Sunday Church School class organized; and actual construction of the new parsonage begun in September, 1957 and was completed early in 1958.

The following pastors have served St. James' Church: J. M. Steck, 1793-1820; Jonas Mechling, 1820-1848; J. J. Suter, 1848-1849; J. R. Focht, 1850-1853; W. H. Wynn, 1854-1856; I. O. P. Baker. 1857-1859; G. W. Mechling, 1859-1865; Daniel Worley, 1865-1866; J. H. Smith, 1866-1874; A. D. Potts, Ph. D., 1875-1876; H. L. McMurray, 1877-1882; J. L. Smith, D. D., 1882-1892; Philip Doerr, 1893; A. H. Bartholomew, 1894-1898; H. L. McMurray (second term), 1898-1907; C. A. Naumann, 1908-1913; Theodore Buch, 1913-1930; Oscar Carlson, 1930-1936; Clinton F. Hildebrand, Jr., 1936-1942; Harry B. Hull, 1943-1950; H. Wahl Pfeifer, 1951-1955; Alva A. Jordan, 1956 —.

Ligonier St. Paul's 1889

ACCORDING to Pastor Alva A. Jordan of the Ligonier Parish, St. Paul's has always been counted a preaching point in the parish rather than a congregation. Information on its history is scanty. It was founded almost a hundred years after St. James' of Ligonier. The pastor of St. James', according to Alva Jordan, is "on loan" to the St. Paul's congregation.

ON July 11, 1949, 25 persons gathered on the lawn of a private home in Lynnwood to discuss the idea of a Lutheran Church in the area. This meeting climaxed an intensive survey conducted by Mr. Charles E. Fair, a seminarian from Mt. Airy, whose findings revealed that there was a definite interest in a Lutheran Church in this vicinity. Hence the first meeting was held, out of which evolved a building-planning board of three members.

Because of a complete lack of empty buildings in the area, where to hold services was a great problem. This problem was solved when a two-car garage was offered the group, and the first service was held in the garage on July 31, 1949, with 30 adults and 13 children present. The Sunday School began on August 7 with 39 in attendance.

Attendance grew so rapidly that the need for a larger building was obvious. Also, it was nearing winter and the garage was unheated. The Pittsburgh Synod presented a lot on Greenwood Avenue for the construction of a basement unit. Ground was broken on August 17 with 148 persons present at the ceremonies. In the meantime, an unfinished supermarket was used as a meeting place until the basement unit was completed.

Mr. Fair returned to Mt. Airy Seminary in September and services were conducted by Mr. Earl Hebrank, a layman from Irwin. Assisting both Mr. Fair and Mr. Hebrank at this time was the Rev. Raymond Agnew, then of Christ Lutheran Church in Carmichaels. By now, several church groups had been formed — a choir, Ladies Aid Society, Luther League, 5 Sunday School classes and catethetical classes, all taught by laymen.

Services started in the basement unit October 30, 1949, and the unit was dedicated November 13, with the Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., officiating. The organizational service was held two weeks later on November 27, 1949, conducted by the Rev. Donald Houser, D. D., Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod. Before the organization service, Pastor Agnew confirmed 76 adults and baptized 24 children. The charter membership now totaled 108. The first congregational meeting was held on December 11, 1949.

In May 1950, Mr. Charles Fair was ordained in Beaver Falls and became the first full-time pastor of the Lynnwood Evangelical Lutheran Church. He was installed at Lynnwood on June 25, 1950. He tendered his resignation June 10, 1951 to accept a call to an assistant pastorate in Philadelphia. The Rev. I. Noble Dundore, of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Brownsville, then took charge of Lynnwood on a part-time basis.

In spite of the fact the church was without a full-time pastor, the mortgage of $8500.00 on the original basement unit was burned on November 27, 1951 — the second anniversary of the church's formal organization.

In May 1952, the Rev. Warren E. Upton accepted the call to serve the Lynnwood parish.

Instead of finishing the basement unit, it was found to be more advantageous to purchase the lots adjoining the basement unit and fronting on the main highway, and build an entirely new structure. The site of the present church includes 140 feet on Washington Road and 300 feet on Greenwood Avenue. Ground was broken for the new church on May 23, 1954, and the structure was completed in April 1955, at a cost of $80,000.00. The dedication service was held on May 1, 1955, with the

Rev. Paul E. Daugherty, D. D., Supt. of the Synodical Board of American Missions, officiating. At the time of dedication the church had a communing membership of 161, and the Sunday School an enrollment of 124. The basement unit was closed for the time being.

Pastor Upton tendered his resignation effective October 15, 1956, to accept a call to St. Petersburg, Pa. The pulpit was filled by various supply pastors until our present pastor, Rev. James D. Percy, accepted the call and assumed charge on February 10, 1957.

In all this time the church had no regular parsonage, but rented an apartment nearby. But better housing facilities were imperative, so on January 8, 1957, a two-story brick home was purchased for $22,500.00. The new parsonage was dedicated on June 9, 1957, with the Rev. Paul E. Daugherty officiating.

In June 1957 because of the need for more space, the old basement unit was renovated and used during Vacation Church School. It was renamed "The Parish Hall" and is now being used for Sunday School for the younger children, and a meeting place for various organizations.

At the present time the church has a total communing membership of 141, a confirmed membership of 224, and a baptized membership of 331. The present Sunday School enrollment is 175.

The pastors who have served the church are: Charles E. Fair (Seminarian organizer), 1949; (first pastor), 1950-1951; I. Noble Dundore (supply), 1951-1952; Warren E. Upton, 1952-1956; James D. Percy, 1957 —.

Manor Unity 1891

THE Rev. Jacob S. Fink, pastor at Brush Creek from 1868 to 1881, began the work of establishing a church in Manor. He held services regularly here, but when the question of building a church arose, the people could not agree whether the church should be located in Manor or Westmoreland City. The building project was abandoned. Following this abortive attempt to build a church, services were held occasionally by Rev. Lund and Rev. Hemsath, both of Brush Creek.

On August 11, 1886 Rev. F. W. Kohler, pastor at Irwin, called a meeting in the Manor schoolhouse. Prospects for organizing a church were discussed. On the 19th of September the organization took place in the Reformed Church. Forty-six charter members signed the constitution.

Services were held for two years in the Reformed and Presbyterian churches; then the congregation broke up completely. It was left to Rev. S. K. Herbster of Irwin to organize the congregation permanently. This he did August 9, 1891. He served the congregation until 1910. The present church was built and dedicated November 2, 1902.

From 1910 to 1941 the church was served by Rev. Edgar H. Daugherty. He served both the Brush Creek and Manor churches. It was under his pastorate that a $17,000 addition to the church was added. A pipe organ costing $1,200 was installed and the basement remodeled so that it could be used for Sunday School purposes.

Rev. Nelson Fattman began his pastorate at Manor in 1941 and served until 1953. From 1953 to 1954 Rev. E. James Mollenauer, mission developer of Our Saviour, Cereal Heights, supplied the pulpit. In 1954 the congregation decided to call a full time pastor. In this capacity Rev. Emory N. Kilburn began his work at Unity June 13, 1954 and ended 1958. John B. Spielman became pastor 1958.

Manorville (Kittanning Twp.) Christ 1786

ABOUT the year 1760 the widow of Ulrich Rupp with her two children, Franz and Christina, emigrated from Germany to America. After a residence of 12 years in Leight county, Franz and Christina (now the wife of Christopher Uhrig) were found among the pioneers of Westmoreland near Greensburg. In 1774 the names of "Frantz Raupp" and Stofel Uhrig" were found attached to the historic Fort Allen petition asking for more adequate protection against the Indians.

Two years later Frantz enlisted in the American army, serving in the Fort Pitt garrision until the close of the war. In company with Christopher Uhrig he took up a large tract of land in Kittanning Township in 1786. On a portion of this land, patented by Christopher Uhrig July 31, 1786 a cemetery was laid out, and in this cemetery a log building known as the "German Meeting House," was built in 1796. This was about one half mile east of the present building. This was undoubtedly the first Lutheran church built within the confines of Armstrong county. The first service in this log church was conducted by John M. Steck who was deeply interested in this undertaking of his two former parishioners. From 1796 to 1813 this pastor made annual visits to the Rupp settlement and ministered to the people. The deed for this land was formally executed June 15, 1814, when Christopher Oury and his wife, for a consideration of $100 conveyed a plot of five and a quarter acres to George Williams and Henry Schrecongost, acting trustees for the German Meeting House. Frantz Rupp died December 28, 1817 and his body was laid to rest in the cemetery of the church that has born his name to the present day.

The church was organized as a union church in which Reformed and Lutherans had an equal share; but the Lutherans were much stronger, and the Reformed families were absorbed at an early date. In 1813 they were visited by John Gottfried Lamprecht who served as their pastor for two years. A second and better log church was built during his ministry. In 1817 the congregation joined with three others in petitioning the Ministerium for a pastor, and John Adam Mohler served them from 1817 to 1823. Of him Pastor David Earhart said: "Though his preaching was fair and his musical talent such that he frequently taught singing school, it was commonly reported that, because of improper conduct, he lost the confidence of the people and then his charge also."

From 1824 to 1825 Karl M. Zeilfels, a man of similar character, preached here. It was said that he collected a considerable sum for a new church, put the money in his pocket and left the community.

The next pastor was Gabriel Adam Reichert, a thorough German, a true Lutheran and a man of God. For some time previous to his coming here he was pastor of neighboring churches and able to preach occasionally at Rupp's. He served regularly every four weeks, preaching in German except for an occasional English sermon during the last four years of his pastorate. In his private diary he always refers to this church as "Williams," probably because he sometimes preached at the home of George Williams, Sr.

During the pastorate of G. F. Ehrenfeld the English language practically displaced the German, and the old log church was replaced by one built of frame. The cornerstone was laid September 9, 1851, and the church was dedicated December 2, 1852. Two weeks after the dedication the church caught fire and burned to the ground. The discouraged people rallied to the call of their pastor, and the cornerstone of a new and better church was laid July 7, 1854. This church was dedicated some time

during the following winter. The church was regularly incorporated under the name "Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kittanning Township," December 16, 1853.

On October 27, 1859, near the beginning of John A. Earnest's pastorate, the church councils of Kittanning, Heilmann's, and Rupp's met and organized Kittanning Parish. Pastor Earnest was called at a salary of $400, one-fourth of which was paid by the Home Mission Committee. After four years the new parish became self-supporting. During this pastorate the controversy between the General Council and the General Synod broke out. When Kittanning supported the General Council and the two rural churches the General Synod, the pastor cast his vote with the General Synod forces.

During the pastorate of J. W. Tressler, 1886-1899, a substantial brick church was built at a cost of $7,000. This church was dedicated May 30, 1897, when pastors of the General Council and the General Synod had a part.

During the pastorate of Elmer F. Rice, D. D., the membership increased from 141 in 1934 to 395 in 1956. This is the largest membership in the 160 years of the church's history. The 140th anniversary was celebrated in 1936, the 150th in 1946; and the 160th in 1956. During Dr. Rice's pastorate excavation for a basement was made providing room for a furnace, social rooms, and kitchen. The steeple, in the interest of safety, was recently removed. An altar with brass cross, brass candalabra, brass flower vases, lectern and baptismal font have been donated by Mrs. G. D. Fiscus in memory of her father and brother. The total cost of the repairs was $15,000.

The following pastors have served this church: J. M. Steck, 1796-1813; J. G. Lamprecht, 1813-1815; J. M. Steck, 1815-1817; J. A. Mohler, 1817-1823; K. M. Zeilfels, 1824-1825; G. A. Reichert, 1825-1837; J. H. Bernheim, 1838-1845; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1845-1859; J. A. Earnest, 1859-1869; J. B. Miller, 1870-1871; A. S. Miller, 1872-1877; G. W. Leisher, 1877-1885; J. W. Tressler, 1886-1899; F. J. Matter, 1900-1909; J. G. Langham, 1910-1934; Elmer F. Rice, D. D., 1934-1958; Charles E. Miller, 1958 —.

Manorville (Kittanning Twp.)
Emmanuel 1840

THIS church is located on the Garrett Run road about four miles east of Manorville. It is commonly called Heilman's after a well known family of that county. Peter and Elizabeth Heilman came to this community about 1798, and their 12 children have become a host. For many years the Heilmans and other Germans of this section attended services at Rupp's, not seeing the value of multiplying churches when pastors were scarce.

Emmanuel Church was not organized until 1840, when John Herman Bernheim was in charge of the parish. A tract of land was donated by Peter Heilman on which a church was built in 1843, but the deed was not executed until March 20, 1846. The cornerstone was laid June 27, 1843, and the building dedicated by Pastor Bernheim May 4, 1844. At the time of the laying of the cornerstone certain regulations were adopted, in which the congregation assumed the name of "Emmanuel's Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregations in Kittanning Township, Armstrong County, Pa." One of these regulations was: "As long as there are six members of this congregation who do not understand English, German must be preached if possible."

During the pastorate of Jacob Zimmerman, 1847-1858, the congregation developed into one of the strongest rural churches of the county, numbering 140 com-

muning members. Services were held every four weeks, alternating between German and English. After the call of John A. Earnest in 1859 all services were in English. The present frame church was erected at a cost of $1,833 and dedicated by Pastor G. W. Leisher October 19, 1879.

During the pastorate of Elmer F. Rice, D. D., membership increased from 119 in 1934 to 229 in 1956. Material improvement has involved an expenditure of $18,000. A basement has been excavated under the church providing social room, kitchen, and furnace room. A gas furnace has been installed; art glass has been placed in all the windows. Altar furniture including pulpit and lectern were part of the material improvement.

The following pastors have served at Emmanuel: J. H. Bernheim, 1840-1846; Jacob Zimmerman, 1847-1858; J. A. Earnest, 1859-1869; J. B. Miller, 1870-1871; A. S. Miller, 1872-1877; G. W. Leisher, 1877-1885; J. W. Tressler, 1886-1899; F. J. Matter, 1900-1909; J. G. Langham, 1910-1934; Elmer F. Rice, D. D., 1934-1958; Chas. E. Miller, 1958 —.

Manorville — Grace — 1878

(See Plate 26)

MANORVILLE is located on the east bank of the Allegheny River, a few miles south of Kittanning. The first effort to establish a Lutheran congregation here was made January 1878, when G. W. Leisher canvassed the town and found a number Lutherans eager to enter such an organization. A meeting was held February 24, 1878, when a temporary organization was effected by the election of the following officers: F. S. Shoop and Alexander Hileman and G. W. Crytzer, deacons. The organization was completed March 10, 1878, under the name of Manorville Union Church.

Thirty five people communed at the first service April 21, 1878. These first services were held in the Manorville schoolhouse with an occasional service in number nine schoolhouse near the town. In 1882 plans were laid for the building of a suitable church, and a building committee was appointed. Two lots on the corner of Water and Manor streets were procured from Miss Elizabeth Sibbet of Pittsburgh. One of these lots was donated by the owner; the other was purchased for $100. The cornerstone of their first church was laid July 28, 1883, and the church dedicated January 6, 1884. Dr. Frederick W. Conrad preached the dedicatory sermon. The church was frame and built at a cost of $1,658. The parsonage was secured by the organization of a stock company which bought a property for $1,000 April 5, 1883.

The three congregations of the parish agreed to purchase the parsonage at the end of two years, the pastor meanwhile paying six per cent on the investment as rental. The stock company donated their intereest to the parish with the exception of a few shares that were secured by purchase in 1886.

The development of manufacturing interests along the river increased the population so much that a new church was made imperative. The cornerstone was laid October 22, 1917 and the building dedicated as Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church by Pastor J. G. Langham January 12, 1919. It was built of brick and stone at a cost of $17,000.

J. G. Langham died February 25, 1934 after a pastorate of twenty four years, the longest pastorate in the history of the parish. Elmer F. Rice, D. D., came to the field October 1, 1934. Since that time the membership of Grace has increased from 300 to 618. The church property has been improved by the installation of a Moller

unit pipe organ. An altar and lectern, together with all necessary accessories, have been newly furnished. Recent alteration expenditures have been $18,000. Also during the pastorate of Dr. Rice a parsonage has been purchased from Mrs. Bertha Shoop.

The following pastors have served Grace: G. W. Leisher, 1878-1885; J. W. Tressler, 1886-1899; F. J. Matter, 1900-1909; J. G. Langham, 1910-1934; Elmer F. Rice, D. D., 1934-1958; Chas. E. Miller, 1958 —.

Martins Ferry, Ohio St. John's 1864

THE work in Martins Ferry was begun by pastors of Zion Church, Wheeling, invited, according to one account, to offset the influence of an extreme free-thinking clergyman on the Ohio side of the river. Services were held at first in a private home, then in the United Presbyterian Church. The date of the founding of the church is given as 1864.

The earliest constitution gave as the purpose of the organization the "furthering of Evangelical Christianity" but the doctrinal position was not otherwise defined. The name of the congregation at that time was "Erste Deutsche Evangelische St. Johannes Kirche" (First German Evangelical St. John's Church). This suggests that the pastor at that period may have been of the group known as "Evangelical" (a blending of Reformed and Lutheran). However, a few months after Rev. John Fritz of the Pittsburgh Synod became the pastor in 1870, he wrote in the word *Lutheran* by authority of a congregational resolution. Pastor Fritz left well organized records, written with great precision and beauty. He had a fondness for writing constitutions — of the church and of its various auxiliaries. A revision of the constitution of the congregation written by him in 1871 named as its doctrinal standards the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism as true interpretations of the Canonical books of the Old and New Testaments.

Pastor Fritz, said to have lost one arm while in missionary service in the Holy Land, came to Martins Ferry from East Liverpool as a mission pastor of the Pittsburgh Synod. For a while he continued to serve the East Liverpool congregation, preaching there "every fourteen days".

The oldest extant records of the Martins Ferry church are minutes of 1868. In that year, during the incumbency of Pastor Oestermeyer, a decision was made to build a brick schoolhouse. This tiny building became the nucleus of the present church plant, which in the course of the years radiated from it.

That the first unit was a schoolhouse suggests the importance that was attached to parish education. When a new pastor by the name of Walter was called, his duties were first to the school, as teacher of the children, and then as preacher on Sundays. The early constitutions placed teaching before preaching in referring to the duties of the minister. For many years thereafter a summer school, in which the elements of the German language were taught, was considered an indispensable part of the life of this German-speaking congregation.

During the long pastorate of the Rev. P. G. Doepkin, the present church building was erected in 1884 in front of the old schoolhouse and adjoining it. Eight years later the tower and spire were added. Subsequently the original school building was enlarged.

Another of the lengthier pastorates was that of the Rev. George Johannes, who served from 1901 to 1914. In 1910 the church underwent an extensive remodeling which conformed to a style that was prevalent in the valley at that period. This in-

cluded the introduction of stained glass windows of exceptionally good quality that continue to add beauty to this house of worship.

Through the efforts of the Rev. C. Frederick Frank a new three-manual pipe organ was installed in the balcony in 1917. In 1936 a very old cement cottage on the property was razed to make room for the erection of a church house. This building, faced with antique-type bricks, stands parallel to the church, joining the old schoolhouse at the rear, so that the whole plant forms a U. The church house contains an auditorium on the main floor, a dining-and-recreational room in the basement, and individual rooms for classes and auxiliary meetings on the top floor.

The interior of the church was remodeled a second time in 1941-42. The chancel was deepened by extending it some distance through the east wall into the original school building. New pews were purchased; new lighting was later added.

As time went on the congregation became bi-lingual, with the English language gaining the ascendancy over the German. For a time German services were limited to the first and third Sundays in the month. Later the German was used at an early morning service, the later morning service and vespers being in English. The German service was discontinued upon the outbreak of World War II.

Pastor Fritz had been a member of the Pittsburgh Synod. During his incumbency the congregation applied for admission to the synod. But the ties were not strong. Subseqent pastors, including Rev. P. G. Doepkin, were members of the Joint Synod of Ohio (forerunner of the American Lutheran Church). In 1895 the congregation looked to the Pittsburgh Synod for the recommendation of a pastor, and, with the coming of the Rev. Paul Kummer, St. John's Church again came under the leadership of this synod. The congregation formally joined the Pittsburgh Synod again in 1919.

In 1896 dissatisfaction within the congregation resulted in the withdrawal of a number of its members to form Zion Lutheran Church of Martins Ferry, which is said to have been served at the beginning by pastors from the Joint Synod of Ohio. After that congregation disbanded in 1925, much of its membership re-entered the stream of St. John's Church.

During the period that Rev. Herman K. Dietrich was pastor the congregation experienced a rapid growth in membership. Under his successor, Rev. John C. Twele, the work of the congregation continued, with strong emphasis upon benevolence. At this time vestments for the choir were introduced. Pastor Twele's ministry ended with his sudden death by a heart attack. In the decade of the 20's the building fund was built up that enabled the congregation to enter upon its building program later on.

The organizational life in the church has been developed throughout its history so that today there are, besides the Sunday school, a Brotherhood, four women's societies as well as three groups of the United Lutheran Church Women (formerly Women's Missionary Society), a senior choir and two youth choirs, a Luther League, a Boy Scout troop and a married couples' club. The congregation participates in a weekday school project of the local council of churches. Conscious of its obligation to the Church at large, St. John's Church has for years taken its benevolence quotas seriously.

The following is an approximate list of pastorates: Rev. Friedrich, William B. Berkemeier. Rev. Oestermeyer and A. Walter for the period 1864-1870; John Fritz, 1870-1875; Rev. Becker and H. Kunkel in 1876; Julius Koehler, 1877; George H. Schodde, 1878-1880; Paul G. Doepkin, 1881-1895; Paul Kummer, 1895-1901; George Johannes, 1901-1914; C. Frederick Frank, 1915-1919; Herman K. Dietrich, 1919-1927; John C. Twele, 1927-1932; Paul W. O. Heist, 1933 —.

Masontown (German Twp.) Jacob's 1773

(See Plate 27)

THIS Church is believed to be the oldest Lutheran Church in America, west of the Allegheny Mountains. As late as September, 1893 the old timers, many of whose lives over-lapped that of Barbara Brandenburg Franks (1741-1839), observed the year of 1768 as the date of the founding of the self-organized congregation.

In the fall of 1765 these families built the Block House, known in Military History as Riffle's Fort and in the community as the Dutch Meeting House.

Dr. Passavant believed it to be the oldest Lutheran Church west of the mountains: and published a sketch of it under that title in *The Missionary*, July 3, 1856.

The property of the Congregation was held jointly by the Lutherans and Reformed in 1773. An old German document now in the Archives of the Pittsburgh Synod, attests this important fact. The following is a free translation:

31st of July, 1773

"The condition of this agreement concerning the Reformed congregation is that the Lutheran congregation shall have as much right to the church as the Reformed congregation. If the congregation should become too strong, and should a dispute arise, then both congregations must build another church in the same form as this, and our Reformed congregation binds itself for 50 pounds Pennsylvania current money, and no minister shall come into the churches to preach unless he has good testimony that he has been ordained by other ministers. Which we acknowledge with our hands."

John Ertman, Jacob Reich, Casper Bohner.

All other church documents and records earlier than 1792 have been lost. It must be remembered that an organization as described would have been different from an organization today. If the men of a settlement assembled and appointed three Lutherans and three Reformed as overseers, with one of them acting as treasurer, that would be sufficient. It is likely that this was the simple form of the original organization in Jacob's, and that the three names subscribed to the above document are those of the three Reformed trustees. Their first church was never dedicated for the reason that there was no minister near to conduct such a service. They built this church for both educational and religious purposes, and were accustomed to gather here for devotional services on the Lord's Day. When Father Trautman was near to the close of his life, he was asked why they would build a church when they had no pastor, and his answer was: "Well, we could go to the House of God every Sunday, hear the teacher read a sermon and listen to Barbara Brandenburg sing." Their eagerness to secure a pastor is seen in the fact that the first petitition from western Pennsylvania to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania for a minister came from these people in 1781. The record says: "These congregations are situated toward Pittsburgh; Redstone is the chief place. They own 300 acres of good land, but they need a man who is strong and can ride much, for they are scattered." Title of their land was secured in a remarkable way, as described in the autobiography of their first pastor, the Rev. Johannes Stauch.

"They borrowed the money from Martin Mason, who was taken captive in the time of General Braddock's defeat at Fort Pitt (now Pittsburgh) by the Indians, while on his way to carry provisions to his father in the army, and who was sold to a French general for a bottle of gin in A. D. 1755, and was taken to Canada, and when grown up returned to his native land and brought this piece of gold with

him, and lent it to the congregation to pay for the land, and became and lived a devoted Christian and member of that Lutheran Church."*

The warrant for this land was dated, February 2, 1786, and the patent issued July 22, 1794. The tract contained 117¾ acres, on which a church has been built several years in advance of the warrant of survey. It is said that the first person buried in the grave yard was a child of Andrew M. and Elizabeth Riffle, one year old who died during the course of an Indian uprising. Barbara Brandenburg made a coffin out of rough slabs, and dug a grave with her own hands, the men of the settlement being away from home. This grave is as old as the first church. Rev. W. F. Ulery says of this old log church:

"This house stood some distance east of the present church, and served as a place of worship for a number of years. Later a second church was built, which stood in the old grave yard a few rods west of the present church. It was built of hewn logs, and had a somewhat better plan and finish than the first church. It had a gallery like the old church at Harold's, an altar and wine-glass pulpit, but was otherwise plain in all its appointments. In this house the fathers of our church in German Township worshipped for many years. It was repaired in later years, and much improved on its original plan and finish by putting in new seats and windows. It stood for a number of years after the first brick church had been built, and was not removed until 1853."†

In this humble building the fathers worshipped for many years. While this part of the country was less exposed to Indian forays than that beyond the Monongahela, they often carried their guns with them to church. A block house fort was built where many anxious hours were spent. Their most trusted scout was "Big Jake Deffenbach," who kept them well informed in times of danger. The coming of Philip Schmidt to York Run in 1769, for the expressed purpose of being near to a German church suggests that there may have been a considerable number of Germans in the settlement and a church earlier than 1773. (The Schmidt warrant for survey of 315½ acres of land is dated June 1, 1769. See Land Grant Office, Harrisburg, Pa.)

For a number of years after the building of their log church, their only church services were conducted by their schoolmasters. Their first pastor was a layman of the Virginia glades, whose coming was like a visitation from heaven. After serving them for two years, 1791-1793, he was given a catechist's license by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. In 1794 the same body gave him a candidates license to preach at "Salem, Morgantown, Redstone and still farther west." The still farther west of this license was regarded by Pastor Stauch as his call to minister to the scattered Germans of the frontier; and he made a number of missionary trips to Kentucky and Ohio for this purpose. He had ten regular appointments in Pennsylvania. Losing his wife soon after beginning his pastorate in Jacob's Church, he lived alone with his faithful horse for a period of three years. The Trautman family baked and washed for him, and evidently did it well, for Katherine Trautman became his wife in 1796. On May 11, 1795, he opened the first record of Jacob's Church.

At this time the congregation had about one hundred members, who pledged $125 for services every two weeks. The work of the parish prospered until October 29, 1803, when two ministers named Eddinger and Pfremer were permitted to hold protracted meetings in the church, which resulted in such excess of emotionalism that many people were deeply offended. During these meetings some of the members

* Autobiography of Rev. Johannes Stauch, Gettysburg Historical Library.
† History of the Southern Conference, W. F. Ulery, page 85.

of the congregation fell into a trance, and the simple hearted pastor was puzzled. He didn't know whether this power was of the Lord or not.

While he hesitated, two factions were created, and the pastor was compelled to take sides. His opponents then secured the services of a man named Kiedelbach, who held competitive services in private homes. Failing to accomplish much by this method of work, they preferred charges against the pastor to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, but that body did not consider them worthy of attention. The opposition continued in the congregation, however, and Pastor Stauch held his last communion service in Jacob's Church August 31, 1806, and removed to Ohio. During his pastorate 489 were baptized and 73 confirmed. His successor was Rev. Johann Karl Rebenach, who was not acknowledged as a Lutheran minister by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania until 1816. After a pastorate of two years he removed to Martinsburg, West Virginia.

It is a mistake to say that the congregation was organized by Pastor Stauch. The evidences indicate that the congregation was self-organized as early as 1773, and perhaps even earlier. After the resignation of Pastor Rebenach, the congregation turned to Rev G. Heinrich Weygandt, who served them from 1809 to 1829. His successor was Rev. John Brown, who ministered to them from 1829 to 1838, living for a time at Monongahela, then at McCullough's Store, and finally at Masontown, Pa. He was not a man of such robust strength as Pastor Weygandt, and was not able to serve all the churches that constituted the parish of his predecessor. Often he found it difficult to meet his limited engagements, and Jacob's Church was sometimes reported vacant during this period. The next pastor was Rev. Charles Rees, whose entries in the church record date from April 25, 1840, to September 29, 1841. This was a trying period for the congregation, and they sorely missed the leardership of Pastors Weygandt and Brown. Separation from the Reformed caused much trouble.

"A meeting was called on October 2, 1842, when it was found that the Reformed part of the council had been reduced to one member, Jacob Dieffenbach, who, on behalf of the Reformed congregation, relinquished all claim on the farm, etc., to the Lutheran congregation, to be used for the support of the minister, but it was provided that the Reformed still have the right to build up a congregation, if able to do so, and should be entitled to their interest in the church. On November 18, 1843, at a congregational meeting, a resolution was passed to petition the court to grant a charter to Jacob's Church. At the February term of court, 1884, a charter was granted and afterwards adopted by the congregation. (Improvements, amendments and alterations to the charter were granted by the court March 14, 1879.) §

The first election was held under the new charter, July 1, 1844. In 1836 Rev. Abraham Weills came to Washington County, and served several churches of the large parish of Pastor Weygandt at different times until 1868. When he first came to Pennsylvania, Jacob's was still under the care of Pastor John Brown. Not until after the pastorate of Rev. Charles Rees, 1840-1841, did the congregation turn to him for their supply. Serving as a supply for several years, he was elected as a regular pastor in 1847, and continued as such until 1851. His successor was Rev. J. K. Melhorn, whose pastorate extended from June 27, 1852, to June 30, 1865. During these thirteen years he was compelled to travel 5,000 miles annually in order to meet his appointments, and the greater part was done on horseback. He paid more attention to church records than some of his predecessors, and it is therefore possible to note that he baptized 60 children, conducted 74 funerals, and added 175 persons to the communing membership.

§ History of the Southern Conference, W. F. Ulery, page 90.

The church in which Pastor Melhorn preached was built of brick, 42 x 50, and dedicated by Pastor Abraham Weills in June 1847. The entire cost was $1,277, but much labor and material were donated. Thirty-three years later this church was enlarged and remodelled at a cost of $2,500, and rededicated by Pastor W. O. Wilson, January 20, 1882. The parsonage was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Melhorn. A new constitution was adopted in June, 1954, which established the congregation for the first time on a firm Lutheran basis. The greater part of the Reformed element had either been absorbed by the Lutherans, or had entered the Presbyterian Church on the hill above McClellandtown.

In 1878 ten more acres of the church land adjoining the old cemetery were laid out in lots and sold to the members of the congregation for a nominal price. Many are the graves, marked and unmarked, found in the two cemeteries, some of which are now more than 183 years old. The coal under the church farm was sold during the pastorate of Rev. Samuel Stouffer, at the rate of $200 per acre. The survey showed it to be 41 acres and 6 perches. The price received was $8,238. $7,300 of the purchased money was placed on interest. This interest was used in meeting current expenses. Soon after this sale two gas wells were drilled, yielding an annual income of $500 for some time. The gas wells ceased to produce in 1919, and much of the coal money was lost through the failure of J. V. Thompson, so that the church was weakened rather than strengthened by the use of this unearned income.

1904 saw new improvements under the pastorate of D. D. Miller, when a chandelier with a twelve light reflector was installed at a cost of $86.70. Memorial windows were installed at a cost of $23.50 per window. New ceiling replaced the old. And a partition, chancel and chancel furniture, also new pews were installed at a total cost of $1,222.50.

Sunday, July 30, 1933 the Memorial Log Church was dedicated. The Memorial Log Church was built from the original logs of the second church edifice which was used for divine worship until the present brick church building was erected. This rebuilt church stands in the old cemetery and somewhere near the spot the second building stood.

The graves of the first settlers in German Township and the first or charter members of the Jacob's Church surround the Memorial Log Church. The grave of Jacob Franks after whom the Church has been named is only a few paces from the Log Church.

A new Hammond Electronic Organ was purchased in 1948 during the pastorate of W. Frederick Adolphsen.

Sunday, August 10, 1952 a Memorial Altar Set was given by the descendants of Nichlus Fast, 1727-1818, and his son Francis Fast, 1760-1831.

Ground has been broken for a new Parish and Educational Building 30 by 70.

The following pastors have served this venerable congregation: Johannes Stauch, 1791-1806; Johann Karl Rebenach, 1806-1808; G. Heinrich Weygandt, 1809-1829; John Brown, 1829-1838; Charles Rees, 1840-1841; Abraham Weills, 1841-1851; J. K. Melhorn, 1852-1856; Henry Acker, 1866-1872; W. O. Wilson, D. D., 1873-1885; John Nichols, 1885-1886; J. H. Ritter, 1886-1887; G. D. Gross, 1888-1891; J. A. Boord, 1891-1894; Samuel Stouffer, 1894-1902; D. D. Miller, 1902-1917; C. L. Hunt, 1918-1923; M. L. Peter, 1923-1930; Frederick C. H. Scholz, 1930-1940; Sidney E. Kuhn, 1941-1947; W. Frederick Adolphsen, 1948-1952; William H. Kibler, 1952 —.

Mayport (Beaver Twp.) Bethlehem 1835

BETWEEN the years 1830 and 1833 a little group of Germans settled in this community, taking title from the Holland Land Company. Prominent among these Germans was George Berkhaus, Sr., whose land was surveyed, July 22, 1833. This survey shows that his land was completely surrounded by that of other German farmers, indicating the compact German community in which Bethlehem Church was born. According to the best tradition this church was provisionally organized by Rev. Henry David Keyl in 1835. During that year George Berkhaus donated the southwest corner of his farm, containing about half an acre, to the Lutherans and Reformed for a church and cemetery. On the lower end of this lot a plain log church was built by Lutherans and Reformed, the latter were never strong, and were gradually absorbed by the Lutherans or Methodists. The last Reformed communion service in Bethlehem Church was conducted by Rev. L. D. Leberman in 1854.

While the church was provisionally organized in 1835, the first regular constitution was not adopted until April 30, 1852. The present German-English constitution was adopted in January 1, 1893. Pastor Keyl ministered here from 1835 to 1838, when he was succeeded by Rev. John George Young, who completed a ministry of nearly thirty years. He opened their first church record in 1841, and the Tauf Register indicates that there were then about twenty German families in this district. It must be remembered, however, that people sometimes brought their children for several miles in order to have them baptized. The first class of catechumens was confirmed by Pastor Young May 16, 1841.

The log church served the congregation until October 2, 1852, when a frame church, 35 x 40, was dedicated by Pastor J. G. Young. At that time all services were conducted in German and the congregational singing was led by Samuel Johns, David Heim, and Adam Schafer. It is said that Pastor Young conducted singing schools in the community in order to improve the congregational singing, and that they were very popular with the young people.

The church organ was not used until about the beginning of the pastorate of Rev. Jacob Ash, the English language was given equal rights in the church with the German, and thirty-five years later, all services were conducted in English.

When the second church was worn out, there was quite a discussion in the congregation as to where the next one would be built, but this was finally decided by rebuilding on the old site. This third church was also built of frame and cost about $5,000. It was dedicated by Pastor William H. Kline, September 20, 1908, Rev. John L. Fischer preaching the sermon. An addition to the burial ground was also secured. The congregation has given one of her young men to the ministry, Rev. George J. Diener in 1935.

The following pastors have served this church: H. D. Keyl, 1835-1838; J. G. Young, 1838-1867; C. A. Fetzer, 1868-1875; Michael Schweigert (supply), 1876; Jacob Ash, 1876-1889; J. H. Ritter, 1889-1895; J. L. Fischer, 1896-1903; Henry Voegtley, 1904-1908; W. H. Kline, 1908-1909; William Weicksel, 1910-1916; J. A. Boord, 1918-1921; Supplies, 1921-1923; D. D. Miller, 1923-1926; William Price, 1926-1929; Kenneth H. Cornell, 1931-1941; F. Merel Crist, 1935-1936; Arthur H. Blank, 1936-1941; Paul Trout, 1941-1947; C. W. Barnett (Supply), 1947-1949; Martin A. Wagner, 1949 —.

Mayport (Shannondale) Zion 1820

THE founding of this church was largely due to the faith and loyalty of a Lutheran mother, Mrs. Katharine Keck, who came from the Brush Creek settlement of Westmoreland County to this vicinity in 1818. She had five sons, David, George, Joseph, Philip, and Conrad. All their earthly possessions were brought to Clarion County on the back of one horse, although it is said that the boys managed to drive four pigs through the woods to their new home.

A log cabin was erected, and here the boys grew up to manhood. Conrad was only eleven years of age at the time of the settlement; and walked all the way back to Brush Creek in his bare feet in order to attend cathechetical instruction under Pastor John M. Steck. Naturally Pastor Steck was deeply interested in a lad of such parts, and visited the family several times in their new home during the years 1820 to 1828. He effected the provisional organization of a congregation here in 1820, and held his services in a log schoolhouse, located about two miles from Shannondale on the Michael Dinger farm. Here the congregation probably expected to make their permanent home, since a burial ground was connected with the schoolhouse and several interments made.

About eight years later, however, the people decided to locate their church in Shannondale; and a plot of ground, containing between three and four acres, was secured from Timothy Pickering and Nicholas Fish at a cost of eight dollars. The deed was dated December 18, 1828, and the ground conveyed to "John Yeany and Jacob Hymes, in trust for the Presbyterian and Lutheran congregations of Red Bank Township, in the County of Armstrong, Pennsylvania." At that time Armstrong County extended northward as far as the Clarion River, and Red Bank Township included the present Red Bank, Porter, Monroe, Limestone, Clarion, and Mill Creek townships of Clarion County, and the Red Bank, Mahoning and (part) Madison townships of Armstrong County. That naturally makes it difficult for the historian to determine what church is meant when the synodical records refer to "Red Bank."

While the name Presbyterian in the original deed was meant to apply to the German Reformed Church, the Reformed people were not satisfied with their title, and a reconveyance of the property was effected April 23, 1853, in which Conrad Keck and Christian Yeany were named as trustees of the "Lutheran and Reformed congregation called Zion." It is probable that the log schoolhouse, that stood here and was used for church and school purposes for a number of years, was erected in the fall of 1828.

When Rev. Henry David Keyl came to Clarion County in 1829 he soon learned to know of this schoolhouse, and held regular services every month from 1830 to 1838. In the last named year Rev. John George Young became pastor and served them faithfully every four weeks for a period of 29 years. It is said that he preached here for two years before he was licensed by the West Pennsylvania Synod. An old document dated January 1, 1844, is preserved by the congregation, which contains the names of forty-one persons, Lutheran and Reformed, who pledged twenty-two dollars, twenty-eight bushels of wheat and nineteen bushels of rye to Pastor Young for one year of service. The last communion service in the old log schoolhouse was conducted by Pastor Young April 12, 1846.

In the records of the West Pennsylvania Synod for 1834 this congregation is called Yeaney's, after a prominent Reformed family of the community. It is

spelled "Jene" in the early communion lists. On April 9, 1846, an article of agreement was signed with Daniel B. Hamm, who agreed to build a good frame church 40 x 55, for $1,300. This was a large sum of money for those days, but George Reinerd headed a subscription paper with $100, Conrad Keck followed with $75, and Johne Jene with $65, and the amount was soon raised. The church was dedicated by Pastors Young and Hoffman January 19, 1847. This building was a great improvement over the log church and was considered a very attractive place of worship.

During the greater part of his long pastorate Rev. J. G. Young lived in a little house in the woods about four miles from Hawthorne. When he removed to Michigan in 1867, he left a strong parish of six churches with more than four hundred communicants.

His successor was Rev. C. A. Fetzer whose term of service extended from 1868 to 1875. About the year 1870 he introduced English services, preaching in both languages once a month. While some of the Germans were inclined to resent the innovation, it seems that practically all the members of Zion attended all services. Regular German services ceased during the pastorate of J. H. Ritter.

On February 12, 1874 the parsonage property in Shannodale was bought for $1,350 by Zion, Bethlehem, Ringgold, and Hawthorne churches, but the interest of the last two were purchased by Zion and Bethlehem ten years later. During the pastorate of Jacob Ash, 1876-1889, the union between the Reformed and Lutherans was dissolved. The Lutherans asked but $250 for their interest in the old church, but the Reformed compromised with them for $150. The land was divided by survey, June 21, 1887, and the Lutherans then built a new church. The cornerstone was laid October 31, 1887, and the building dedicated by Pastor Jacob Ash, June 3, 1889. It was built of frame at a cost of $4,500 but much of the labor was donated. The first Sunday School was a union school of all denominations in the schoolhouse; the second was a Reformed-Lutheran school, which met in the church with Isaac Schaffer as the first superintendent.

In 1945 the 125th anniversary of the organization of Zion was observed with Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, president of the Pittsburgh Synod, Rev. Kenneth H. Cornell, and Rev. Arthur H. Blank participating. Rev. Ralph W. Yeany, a son of the congregation, also had a part in the service.

During the pastorates of Paul Trout and Martin A. Wagner the church basement was completed. Dedication services were in August, 1954.

The following pastors have served Zion: J. M. Steck and G. A. Reichert (occasional supplies), 1820-1829; H. D. Keyl, 1830-1838; J. G. Young, 1838-1867; C. A. Fetzer, 1868-1875; Michael Schweigert (supply), 1875; Jacob Ash, 1876-1889; J. H. Ritter, 1889-1895; J. L. Fischer, 1896-1903; Henry Voegtley, 1904-1908; W. H. Kline, 1908-1909; William Weicksel, 1910-1916; J. A. Boord, 1918-1921; Supplies, 1921-1923; Daniel D. Miller, 1923-1926; William Price, 1926-1929; Kenneth H. Cornell, 1931-1934; F. Merle Crist, 1935-1936; Arthur H. Blank, 1936-1941; Paul Trout, 1941-1947; C. W. Barnett (supply), 1947-1949; Martin A. Wagner, 1949 —.

McKean (Kearsarge) Our Saviour's 1955

THE first survey of the Kearsarge area for the locating of a Lutheran church was made before World War II. It was decided at that time that the district was not ready for a church, so plans were dropped. After the war, with population changes, a new need was recognized. After another survey in the spring of 1954, it was decided to establish a mission congregation in the Kearsarge area.

The pastor selected for this mission work was the Rev. Charles H. Zacher, who at the time was pastor of Trinity Church, McKean. Pastor Zacher then chose five men from the prospective congregation to act as a steering committee until the church was organized.

The first meeting of this committee was held on August 24th, 1954 in the home of LeRoy Doehrel; subsequent meetings took place in the homes of the other members of the committee. The first meeting of the prospective members of the church was held at the Kearsarge Fire Hall on September 14, 1954 with almost fifty people attending.

The committee's next task was to find a place for worship. Mr. Ray Englert, a Roman Catholic, generously offered the use of his Summit Hotel dining room located at Gore Road and Peach Street. He allowed the congregation to store the altar and supplies in his warehouse during the week. The first worship service was held October 10, 1954; Sunday School classes were started a week later, October 17, in the dining room of the Summit Hotel.

Although this arrangement was adequate but no too satisfactory, the congregation needed other facilities. An immediate search for church property was begun. Several sites were considered by the committee and the Home Mission Board of the Pittsburgh Synod.

The present site at Peach Street and Zimmerly Road was purchased for $18,000. A $8,000 mortgage was taken by the Board of American Missions and a $10,000 mortgage by the Synodical Board of American Missions. The buildings on this property consisted of a two-story frame house, a three car garage and a one car garage.

Men of the church organized in work groups to remove the partitions from the downstairs to provide one large room for services. The first service was held in this building the second Sunday in March, 1955.

Organizational Services were held at St. Matthew's Church, 7th and Cascade, Erie, on May 8, 1955 with 52 members signing the charter for Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kearsarge.

In 1956 the men of the church tore down the single garage, planted grass and at the cost of $1400 turned the three car garage into a complete chapel unit of which everyone in the congregation is justly proud.

Pastor Zacher resigned his charge in 1957; Pastor Bruce Shaffer began his pastorate in 1957.

McKean Trinity 1897

BEFORE the founding of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Lutherans of McKean attended the services at St. Peter's, Millcreek Township. In 1897 the desire for a church in their community led the Lutherans of McKean to organize under the direction of the Rev. Elias Jacob Meissner. August Delft, Herman Warren, Charles Mankel, William Schaeffer, Charles Schroeder, Fred Ruhling, and Ernest Ruhling were the first trustees of the new church begun May 8, 1897.

A lot near the forks of Erie Street and North Main Street (then Grubb Road and Edinboro Road) was bought for $95.00, August 10, 1897. Members of the church volunteered their services in building the present brick structure. Dedicated on November 21, 1897 by Pastor Meissner, with sermons preached in both German and English, the brick church, 35 x 50, cost the congregation $2,000.00 in cash. The church bell was given by John Wagner.

During the pastorate of the Rev. E. J. Meissner, German was used for worship services every third Sunday; however, since that time only English has been the language for worship.

Trinity has formed a parish variously called Erie County and McKean, which included at different times St. Peter's, Millcreek; St. John's, Franklin Corner's; and St. Paul's, Drake's Mills. Today it is part of the McKean Parish which includes the sister congregation of Our Saviour's, Kearsarge.

A parsonage across the street from the church was purchased by Trinity for the pastors of the parish in 1936 for $1,800.00. The three previous pastors before the parsonage had been secured had rented in McKean. In 1955 a new parsonage, located behind the church, was built by Trinity for $15,250.00.

Pastor Chester Bird and members of the congregation bought and set in place stained glass windows in the church in 1934. Remodeling of the interior of the church was completed at Trinity during the years 1947-48. A narthex, stairwell, new floor, chancel arch and choir loft, were added. The cost of the improvements was $3,500,00; again with much of the labor being donated by members of the church.

Although the Sunday School had been organized in 1897 with I. M. Kinsinger as the first superintendent, by 1945 the Sunday School had ceased to function. The reorganization of the Sunday School in 1946 under the leadership of Leonard Zimmer was successful and continues its educational work today.

Property beside the church became available in 1953 and was purchased. After the building on this lot was torn down, the lot has become a parking area for the church.

The Pastors who have served Trinity were: Elias Jacob Meissner, 1897-1906; Reuben E. McDaniel, Ph, D., 1907-1910; Supplies, 1910-1914; Merle Rae Kunkelman, 1914-1918; John A. L. Mensch, A. M., 1918-1919; John Andrew Beighley, 1919-1920; Franklin W. Boyer, 1920-1925; Joseph W. Dean, 1925-1930; Chester S. Bird, 1930-1936; Roy S. Schultz, 1936-1946; Franklin H. Schott, 1946-1947; R. Russell Riethmiller, 1947-1951; W. Frederick Adolphsen, 1952-1953; Charles H. Zacher, 1954-1957; Bruce Shaffer, 1957 —.

McKeesport (White Oak) Calvary 1953

CALVARY Evangelical Lutheran Church is one of the fruits of the Home Mission activity of the Pittsburgh Synod and the United Lutheran Church Board of American Missions of recent years. The White Oak Borough was surveyed prior to 1953 to determine whether the area justified the establishment of a congregation. After the survey, the Synodical Board of American Missions extended a call to the Rev. William G. Steiner to organize a congregation in White Oak Boro, McKeesport, Pa. Mr. Steiner took over his duties on June 1, 1953.

During the Summer of 1953 preparations were made for the organization of the congregation. Part of the preparation included the purchase of a home on Hemlock Drive which was to serve as the parsonage and worship center for the congregation. The basement of the home was remodeled for worship purposes. On August 16, 1953 the first service was held with seventy-three in attendance; a week later the first Sunday School session was held.

On November 15, 1953 the congregation was formally organized with seventy adults and thirty-two children being received as members. At this service a formal call was extended to the mission developer, W. G. Steiner, who accepted. A constitution was adopted and the Church Council was elected the following week on November 19, 1953.

Since the congregation could not expand on its original property, efforts were made to secure other property which would be more siutable for congregational activity and expansion. In 1954 a famous nightclub (Club Belvedere) was considered as a possible site but was rejected by congregational action.

The search continued until July 6, 1955 when the congregation voted to purchase new property which was in a more central location and offered a better opportunity to expand. This property had a large home and also a separate building which formed a two-car garage with a four room apartment above it. The purchase was made on September 1, 1955. The large home was then remodeled completely on the first floor which was to be the chapel. The second and third floors are used for Sunday School purposes. The dedication of the property and chapel was held on April 29, 1956.

Meanwhile, a change of pastors came about. The first pastor resigned in January of 1955 and the Rev. Glenn C. Schweitzer assumed the duties of pastor on June 1, 1955.

In mid 1956 the membership of the congregation was composed of eighty-six adults and forty-three children. Future plans call for the purchase of adjacent property and the building of a permanent church edifice.

Calvary has had only two pastors: Wm. C. Steiner, 1953-1955; and Glenn C. Schweitzer, 1955 —.

McKeesport St. John's 1889

AS early as 1883 General Council leaders discussed the necessity of establishing an English mission in this growing town. In the winter of 1884-85 the missionary superintendent spent much time locating the Lutherans and interesting them in the founding of a church. Services were held in a rented hall every four weeks for a period of eight months, but the results did not justify an organization. Nothing further was done until February, 1887, when Rev. J. C. Kunzmann canvassed the town and found 25 Lutherans ready to enter a mission.

A temporary organization was effected by Rev. W. A. Passavant, Jr., on August 14, 1887 under the name of St. John's English Evangelical Lutheran Church. Thirty persons associated themselves with this organization. The first regular pastor was Elmer F. Krauss, whose term of service extended from 1887 to 1889. He attempted to serve Homestead, Braddock, and McKeesport at the same time, and found it impossible to do justice to any of the three. After his resignation the mission was given the full time service of a pastor. The population of McKeesport was 20,000 at that time and the full time of a pastor was needed to place the congregation on equal footing with other well established churches.

Pastor J. C. F. Rupp began his labors March 1, 1890 under the handicap of a dismal place of worship, but soon gained the confidence of the people and interested them in the important task of building a church. A lot on the corner of Ninth Avenue and Locust Street was bought from the city for $6,300 which meant the assuming of a heavy debt by a few people, yet it was decided to go ahead with the erection of a suitable chapel. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor Rupp August 16, 1891, and the diverse elements of the new congregation were welded together by a common interest. This interest was shown by the fact that $3,800 was paid on the lot while the chapel was being erected. It was built of brick and stone at a cost of $5,000; it was dedicated February 21, 1892.

Although an indebtedness of $7,800 now rested on the mission, it was gradually reduced until April 25, 1910, when the mortgage was fully paid. A brick parsonage was erected on Locust Street in 1910 at a cost of $5,000. After May 25, 1918, when the last of parsonage debt was paid, the congregation began to gather a building fund, with which the church was thoroughly renovated in 1925.

The Pastors who served St. John's were: E. F. Krauss, 1887-1889; J. C. F. Rupp, 1890-1894; H. L. McMurray, 1894-1896; S. M. Mountz, 1897-1900; J. J. Brubeck, 1901-1904; L. O. Benze, 1905-1909; J. F. Heckert, 1910-1931; Myron E. Cole, 1931-1942; Reginald E. Dozer, D. D., 1942-1950; William W. Zundel, 1950 —.

McKeesport Trinity 1893

GERMAN Lutherans were organized into a Lutheran Church as early as 1845 by the Rev. Michael Schweigert, a licentiate of the Pittsburgh Synod. The Rev. Daniel Maier succeeded him in 1847 and during his pastorate the congregation was lost to the synod.

Services were held at intervals in the Old Blue Ribbon Hall and in the Reformed Church around 1890. The Rev. H. B. Winton, Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, ministered to this small group. The congregation was organized June 4, 1893 by the Rev. J. E. Maurer, Missionary Superintendent, in the Old Blue Ribbon Hall, East Fifth Avenue.

The location of the mission was not favorable to development and was moved to the K. of P. Hall, one mile distant. A good Sunday School was maintained led by devoted women. Not a man could be interested at that time. Trinity's first pastor was the Rev. O. F. Harshman who served it in connection with First English, Duquesne, from December 1, 1893 to December 1, 1894. Rev. R. B. Starks was resident pastor for a short time in 1896, serving in connection with Turtle Creek. E. E. Parsons, C. A. Boory and E. F. Petticrew, theological students, served during summer vacations. The next regular pastorate was that of Rev. A. J. Bean, 1898-1901, during which the mission with St. Paul's, Glenwood, constituted a charge. In 1902 the membership numbered only 36.

After worshipping in the K. of P. Hall for nearly nine years, on April 1, 1902 the mission moved to the Chapel Hall on 1121 Scott St. where the history of Trinity really begins. In the very center of a new residential section the church took on new life.

Pastor George N. Lauffer served the mission and started it on to a greater growth. Two flourishing Sunday Schools were maintained, one in the K. of P. Hall and the other in the Chapel.

During the pastorate of the Rev. P. T. E. Stockslager the East End Sunday School was discontinued and all interests centered in securing a permanent church home. The present lot at Soles and Stewart Sts. was purchased for $1,400.00 January 9, 1905. A charter was granted June 25, 1905. The cornerstone was laid January 6, 1906 with the Rev. J. W. Bucher and the Rev. J. Elmer Bittle assisting. The church was dedicated October 28, 1906. The total cost of the building was $8,200.00. Membership had reached 100 in 1908.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Frank J. Matter a brick parsonage was erected at the rear of the church at a cost of $5,000.00 and the mission became self-supporting November 1, 1919. The confirmed membership increased to 283 and 343 were enrolled in the Sunday School.

The Rev. William F. Pfeifer, D. D., accepted the call on August 1, 1923. The Common Service Book was introduced. Improvements were made and the congregation grew benevolent and mission minded. In 1926 lots were purchased on Versailles Avenue for $12,800 for the erection of a new church in the future.

Pastor Elmer O. Ortner introduced the Lutheran robe and the choir was vested in cassock and cotta. The fortieth anniversary was observed June, 1933 with appropriate service. The Rev. Henry H. Bagger, President of Synod, was the guest speaker. Fine evangelistic work was accomplished during the pastorate which terminated February 11, 1934.

Pastor William M. Schwartz was called in 1934. A building fund for a new church was started. Weekly church bulletins were introduced. With regret the congregation accepted Pastor Schwartz's resignation December, 1937.

The Rev. Norman E. Kieffer began his ministry April 1, 1938. The cassock, surplice and stoles were introduced by Pastor Kieffer. The first issue of The Voice of Trinity appeared September, 1938. A Church Banker was elected by the Church Council, banking money of the congregation and all organizations. The church became free of debt in 1941. After a fruitful pastorate, Pastor Kieffer resigned effective April, 1949.

The Rev. Marlin M. Enders assumed the pastorate December 1, 1949. In November, 1950 the pastor moved to a new parsonage erected in White Oak Borough. The former parsonage was used for a parish house. The former lots on Versailles Avenue were sold and, in June 1954, the congregation decided to build an addition to the church edifice and undertake a complete renovation program. Rededication services were held Easter Day, April 10, 1955 with Dr. G. L. Himmelman, President of Synod, preaching the dedicatory sermon. Men of the Brotherhood renovated the parish house, donating many hours of labor. The cost of the addition and renovation program was $81,000.00. Trinity Church has facilities for future growth and a strong program of Evangelism has been put into effect.

The pastorates in consecutive order were as follows: O. F. Harshman, 1893-1894; Student E. E. Parsons (supply) 1895; R. B. Starks, (supply) 1896; Supplies 1897-1898; A. J. Bean, 1898-1901; G. N. Lauffer, 1902-1903; P. T. E. Stockslager, 1904-1908; T. A. Himes, D. D., 1908-1910; U. A. Guss, 1911-1914; F. J. Matter, 1915-1923; W. F. Pfeifer, D. D., 1923-1930; E. A. Ortner, D. D., 1930-1934; W. M. Schwartz, 1934-1937; N E. Kieffer, 1938-1949; M. M. Enders, Th. D., 1949 —.

McKees Rocks Mt. Calvary 1853

WHILE this church is now located in the town of McKees Rocks, it was started on the hill beyond in a rural district. The need of a church was deeply felt by the people, since bad roads and high water from the river at certain seasons of the year made it almost impossible to attend services in the city. To meet this need Martin Clever, Sr., donated one acre of ground to the Lutheran Church for church burial purposes in May, 1852. Anxious to see the hopes of the people realized, Pastor Henry Reck of Birmingham held services in the home of Martin Clever, Sunday evening, February 27, 1853. Rev. W. A. Passavant followed this with a similar service, Monday evening, March 7, 1853, when Ephraim J. Brooks, Martin Clever, Jr., and Cornelius Scully were appointed as a church building committee. A fund of $1,000 was soon raised, and the contract for the building of a small frame church was let. This building was dedicated as Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church September 4, 1853, Rev. William A. Passavant, Rev. Henry Reck, and Rev. F. W. Tuerk of the Lutheran Church being assisted by Rev. Jennings of the Presbyterians. A number of Episcopalian ladies were deeply interested in the furnishing of the little church. The congregation was not regularly organized until November 12, 1853, with nine members.

A call was then extended to Rev. Milton Valentine, it being stipulated that he should preach every alternate Sunday morning at an annual salary of $150.

Pastor Valentine served this church less than a year, and his successor, Rev. Henry Reck, served it in connection with Birmingham, 1855-1859. The congregation was legally chartered October 1, 1855.

In the spring of 1890 part of the church ground was leased to an oil company. Three wells were drilled, and the people of the congregation suddenly found themselves reaping dividends at the rate of $100 a day. This rich return continued until the treasurer had received about $6,000, when it was decided to use the money in rebuilding the church.

The new church was dedicated by Pastor J. Q. Waters February 22, 1891, Dr. W. A. Passavant preached the sermon. The total cost of the improvements was about $6,000. When Mt. Calvary was organized it was in an isolated rural field; as the years went by the town of McKees Rocks grew up at the mouth of Chartiers Creek, and relocation became highly desirable.

On May 31, 1896, it was decided to build a new church in the town. Three lots on the corner of Furnace Street and Chartiers Avenue, 72 x 100, were bought from J. A. McKee, and the way thus opened for the building of the third house of worship. The cornerstone was laid May 9, 1897, and the church dedicated by Pastor Robert R. Durst November 21, 1897. It was built of frame, costing, together with the site, about $6,900, but the raising of the building above flood level in 1907 cost $1,300 additional. The erection of this church gave the congregation two places of worship. Services were continued at both places until 1911, when those at the upper church were discontinued except on funeral occasions. This upper church was razed to the ground in 1923.

In 1903 the parsonage at the upper church had been sold and removed. The second parsonage was built on Mary Street in 1907 at a cost of $7,300, but this was sold in 1920, in order to secure the property on the corner of Dale Street and Russelwood Avenue at a cost of $10,500.

A beautiful church, erected at an original cost of $78,000 was built on the corner of Dale and Russelwood. It was dedicated by Pastor John J. Myers on October 18, 1925. The church tower bell used in the newly built church was the same one that had been used in the first church structure. The mortgage on the church was finally paid off in 1947 during the pastorate of Dr. Adam Boerstler. A mortgage burning service was held November 30, 1947.

To add to the beauty of the church and the worship service, the members of the church purchased a set of Maas carillon chimes, in honor of the boys who served our country during World War II. A completely refurnished chancel, finished in 1952, and lights for the nave, completed in 1953, were secured through the efforts of the organizations of the church and personal donations from many of its faithful members. A pipe organ, which was purchased from the Pittsburgh Synod when St. John's Lutheran Church at Forbes and Jumonville was disbanded, was electrified and installed in the church, being completed in 1956. Extensive repairs had to be made to the church tower when an unsafe condition was discovered. An enclosed platform for the loud speaker system of the Maas Carillon set was built on top of the tower which gave greater range to the chimes.

The congregation was saddened by the death of Dr. Boerstler on May 19, 1952. He had accomplished the goal of making the church debt-free and having the chancel completely refurnished. The dedication of the chancel took place on May 24, 1953 by Pastor Richard E. Brunk.

The church can boast of having given one son to the Gospel ministry — the Rev. John E. Hydinger, ordained in Greenville, Pa. May 23, 1945.

The cemetery which was connected with the original church property, has continued to grow throughout the years. To the original donation of 1852, ten acres were added in 1912, and ten more in 1920.

The following pastors have served in this parish: Milton Valentine, 1853-1854; Henry Reck, 1855-1859; J. S. Lawson, 1859-1868; W. A. Passavant, D. D., 1868-1876; G. H. Gerberding, 1876-1879; A. N. Bartholomew, 1879-1885; J. Q. Waters, 1885-1895; R. R. Durst, 1896-1911; John J. Myers, 1912-1925; M. R. Kunkelman, 1925-1931; Adam Boerstler, Th. D., 1931-1952; Richard E. Brunk, 1952 —.

McKees Rocks St. John's 1885

BY action of the Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church this congregation was organized by the Rev. C. F. Bohnen of New Castle on January 9, 1885. Pastor Bohnen, on September 19 of the following year, installed the first church council.

At the regular congregational meeting of October 24, 1886, a committee was appointed to secure a suitable spot for erecting a church building. Eventually, two lots on Chartiers Avenue were purchased from Mr. Steinmiller for $800.

At the convention of the Pittsburgh Synod that year, Mr. Steinmiller made an appeal on behalf of the new congregation and was answered by the formation of a mission congregation consisting of Greenoch and McKees Rocks. St. John's congregation was accepted into the synod at that time, with an annual appropriation of $150. The Rev. F. L. Dietrich of Greenoch was commissioned to serve as missionary. Pastor Bohnen resigned from the parish on March 28, 1887, and Pastor Dietrich was installed the following May 22.

Cornerstone for the congregation's first church building was laid on September 25, 1887. The new church, a modest frame structure, known for the next 38 years as "The Little German Church," was then dedicated on December 18, 1887. Pastor Dietrich was assisted in the service by the Rev. D. M. Kemerer. At this time the congregation numbered only 37 members. By 1888 the congregation had increased to 75 members, and four years later became self-sustaining.

Pastor Dietrich resigned his pastorate September 18, 1893, and was succeeded on October 1 of that year by the Rev. Johannes Schubert. The latter's ministry was marked by his endeavor to lead the congregation into union with the Missouri Synod. Months of internal strife followed. Finally, 16 member families voted to go with Pastor Schubert while the other 11 families tenaciously held possession of the property and declared "that the connection of St. John's congregation with the Pittsburgh Synod shall remain as provided for in the charter and constitution of the church."

Pastor Schubert was relieved of his charge on July 8, 1894. Twelve days later the Rev. John H. Tarnedde, then assistant pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Camden, New Jersey, was called to St. John's and was installed as pastor by the Rev. J. C. Kunzmann, D. D. on August 19.

With a nucleus of 22 members, Pastor Tarnedde began the task of rebuilding the congregation. Four years later Chartiers Avenue was widened and, as a result, the church building was raised and moved back at a cost of $1,000. A parsonage for Pastor Tarnedde was built behind the church in the summer of 1901 at a cost of $3,000. By 1907 the congregation was free of debt and, in 1911, embarked upon a building fund.

The congregation had kept to the German language exclusively and, therefore, found itself at a standstill in the period following World War I. By 1921 English Sunday School classes were in progress with the hope of retaining the younger members of the congregation. Three years later English worship services were also begun, in addition to the German. At about the same time, the duplex envelope system for stewardship was inaugurated. Previously, "collectors" made their rounds among the members to secure funds for the church's work.

After the language barrier had been broken, the steady growth of the congregation led to the decision in December of 1924 to erect a new church building on the same site. The cornerstone for this new edifice was laid by Pastor Tarnedde on July 19, 1925. The Rev. F. Beiswenger of Pittsburgh preached the English sermon at the service and the Rev. F. J. Fuerst of New Kensington preached in German. On January 24, 1926, the present building, erected at a cost of $65,000, was "dedicated to the honor of God and to the promulgation of spiritual growth and welfare among men." The congregation at that time was associated with the German Church of McDonald, Pennsylvania, which was also served by Pastor Tarnedde.

After a faithful ministry of 47 years, Pastor Tarnedde retired from the active ministry on August 31, 1941. He was immediately named pastor emeritus by the congregation.

Meanwhile, Hamma Divinity School student William J. Welther had accepted the call of St. John's congregation and, following his ordination, was installed as pastor of St. John's by Pittsburgh Synod President H. Reed Shepfer on June 22, 1941. Under Pastor Welther's leadership the Luther League was revitalized, a Women's Missionary Society was formed, the congregation's debt was removed and benevolent giving increased.

Pastor Welther resigned from St. John's on October 31, 1946, in order to accept a call to Honterus Evangelical Lutheran Church in Youngstown, Ohio. He was succeeded at St. John's by the Rev. Samuel H. Gross, formerly pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin, Pennsylvania. Pastor Gross was installed by President Shepfer on April 13, 1947, and remained at St. John's until June 8, 1955, when he resigned to accept a call to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Homestead, Pennsylvania.

On January 29 of the following year Philadelphia Seminary senior, Donald M. Bravin, accepted the call from St. John's and was installed by Pittsburgh Synod President G. Lawrence Himmelman on June 13, 1956. Dr. Himmelman was assisted by the Rev. Harry L. Berkebile, pastor of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh. The charge to Pastor Bravin was presented by his father, the Rev. Dan. B. Bravin, D. D., director of the National Lutheran Council's Mission to the Jews, Pittsburgh.

Within the first year of Pastor Bravin's ministry 60 persons were added to the congregation's membership, laymen were trained to publicly witness to their faith by speaking before large groups, mid-week prayer and Bible study groups were organized to meet in private homes, benevolent giving was increased by more than 30 per cent, attendance at worship services almost doubled, a Luther League was formed and the Brotherhood was revived, gas heating equipment was installed in the church and both the church and parsonage were renovated.

Pastors who have served St. John's congregation are: F. C. Bohnen, 1886-1887; F. L. Dietrich, 1887-1893; Johannes Schubert, 1893-1894; John H. Tarnedde, 1894-1941; William J. Welther, 1941-1946; Samuel H. Gross, 1947-1955; Donald M. Bravin, 1956 —.

Meadville Trinity 1803

(See Plate 27)

WHEN northwestern Pennsylvania was organized into counties March 12, 1800, Meadville was made the seat of justice for the entire region. The town had been laid out in 1793 by David Mead. Located in the heart of French Creek Valley, Meadville became a convenient meeting place for a number of German families residing in the vicinity. Tradition says that The Reverend Philip Muckenhaupt effected a provisional church organization for them in 1803. He was not a member of any Synod during the time of his residence in Crawford County. The greater part of his time was spent in teaching school and practicing medicine. In 1811 he was replaced by travelling missionaries of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

The earlier history of these pioneer Germans is hard to relate, since the church which they organized in Meadville has preserved no records earlier than 1874. It is known that as early as 1808 that "the congregation in about Meadville" appealed to the Ministerium for a pastor. The first of the travelling preachers to reach the area was the Rev. W. H. Scriba, who spent three months of the summer of 1811 in the region. The Rev. Peter Rupert was the second of these travelling preachers to make Meadville his headquarters during the summer of 1814. He travelled many miles to minister to the scattered Lutheran settlers, but declined a formal call extended to him by the congregation.

His successor was the Rev. Carl Wilhelm Colsen, who arrived in 1815 and reorganized the congregation in the courthouse in 1816. While serving "far and wide" in his ministry to his people, he became ill of pneumonia and died December 29, 1816. A marble slab in Greendale Cemetery marks his last resting place. Pastor Colsen became a friend of Timothy Alden, the first President of Allegheny College, who offered him a professorship in the college.

The Rev. J. F. C. "Father" Heyer succeeded Pastor Colsen and rendered valuable service during the winter of 1817-1818. It is claimed that he preached the first "English Lutheran" sermon in western Pennsylvania in the courthouse at the request of Timothy Alden. Dr. Alden, also impressed with the scholarship of this man, offered him the Chair of German and French at the College. Pastor Heyer declined and left Meadville for other service in the Church. The Rev. Peter Rupert returned for a second pastorate, 1819-1822. A few years later his body was laid to rest in a Crawford County cemetery.

The Rev. Philip Meyerhoeffer served the church from 1822 until 1826, but the services of this converted romanist were not very satisfactory. During the summer of 1824, the Parish was visited by candidates A. H. Lockman and N. J. Stroh of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. Then, in 1826, a similar visit was made by the Rev. N. G. Sharretts of the West Pennsylvania Synod. During interims from 1826 to 1836, when there were no resident pastors, the congregation was served by the Rev. Michael Kuchler of the Ohio Synod. An old record of that synod shows that an elder and a trustee were installed in 1828, and reveals that Meadville was a member of his parish in 1836. From 1829 to 1832, the Rev. Wilhelm Edward Schulze was the resident pastor. For the next ten years only supply pastors were available. Pastor J. D. Nunnemacher served the congregation, 1842-1845, but was unable to revive the discouraged people.

This was the condition of things in 1846 when Rev. Henry Ziegler of the Pittsburgh Synod visited the Parish. Many thought that he was wasting his time

GREENSBURG, Pennsylvania ZION'S

FOUNDED 1848

Plate 17

GREENVILLE, Pennsylvania HOLY TRINITY

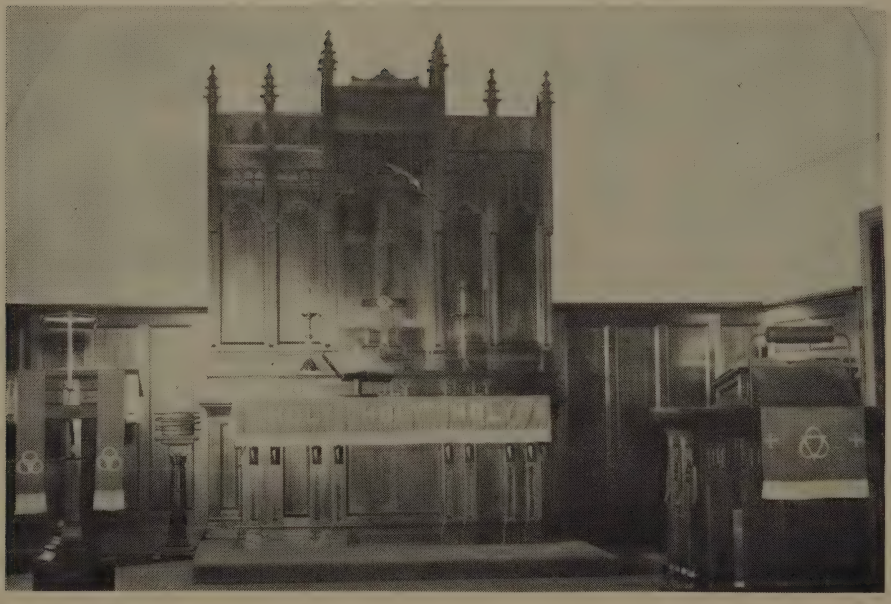
FOUNDED 1865

This is one of the most historic churches in the Pittsburgh Synod. In the original building took place the historic split between the General Synod and the General Council in 1867.

Interior of Holy Trinity showing chancel, altar and Trinity Windows.

HOMESTEAD PARK, Pennsylvania MESSIAH

FOUNDED 1904



GROVE CHAPEL GROVE CHAPEL

All the chancel furniture was constructed by two men in the congregation. The wood is black walnut.

FOUNDED 1873

in Meadville, but Pastor Ziegler thought otherwise. He reorganized the congregation in the same year with 25 members, secured admission into the Pittsburgh Synod and had the congregation made a part of the Crawford Mission. A lot on Pine Street was purchased and a church costing $1,800 was erected by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations. The church was dedicated on December 19, 1847. When Pastor Ziegler resigned in May, 1850, he reported a German-English Congregation of 55 members, and a Sunday School of 30 pupils.

Another long and distressing period followed, 1850-1857, during which time the congregation was supplied by some "Independent Preachers" who destroyed most of the good work of Pastor Ziegler. When the Rev. Henry Weicksel arrived in 1857, he found conditions at such a low ebb that he had to effect another reorganization, with 12 members, in October of the same year. Pastor Weicksel resigned in 1858.

It was then that the Rev. A. B. Bierdemann of the Ohio Synod volunteered his services, and for the next 25 years the congregation was served by pastors of that body. During this period the congregation enjoyed a splendid development. A large number of German families arrived from Canada in 1864 and increased the membership in the church. The Reformed share of the original church was purchased by the Lutheran congregation in 1865. A constitution was adopted in 1866 and signed by 33 members. On January 23, 1868, the congregation was granted a charter under the name of "The Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church of Meadville, Pa." The pastor at the time was the Rev. G. A. Bruegel, who believed that the Joint Synod of Ohio would unite with the General Council then forming. He had the following article inserted in the charter:

"The Church acknowledges itself to be a member of, and to belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Adjacent States, and of the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the United States. As such it accedes to, recognizes and adopts the constitution, doctrine, discipline and form of worship, as it now is or may be hereafter changed by the aforesaid Synod or Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and acknowledges their authority accordingly."

The Synod of Ohio decided not to unite with the General Council. This created a division in the Congregation, with the General Council party in the majority. The majority group called General Council Pastors to supply the pulpit, applied for admission and was received into the Pittsburgh Synod in 1884. From 1864 until 1884 all services were in German. During the next twenty years, 1884-1904, both German and English were used in conducting services and preaching the Word. German services were discontinued in 1904, and since that time all services have been in English.

In 1885, the Rev. J. H. Orr was called to serve the Meadville and Corry congregations and served until 1888, when he became pastor of Meadville alone, serving until 1890. During these years, plans were laid for the relocation of the church, but these were frustrated by a strong minority. Shortly after the resignation of Pastor Orr in 1890, the Ohio Synod entered suit for the property. The case was tried before Judge John J. Henderson of the Crawford County Court, who decided in favor of the General Council party, thus eliminating the name Joint Synod of Ohio from the charter February 11, 1894. Pastor G. W. Critchlow of Saegertown acted as advisor to the congregation during the period of litigation. A new constitution was adopted by the congregation on October 28, 1890. September 18, 1892, services were held by the Rev. D. M. Kemerer of Greenville, who also con-

conducted a congregational meeting following worship service for the purpose of naming a building committee for the erection of a new church.

The Rev. A. J. Graeppe accepted the call of the congregation as its pastor on October 16, 1892. He began immediately to reorganize the building committee and set in motion the erection of the proposed new church. A new site on Park Avenue near Baldwin Street was purchased from J. J. Youngson for $850. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on Ascension Day, May 11, 1893. A brick church was built at a cost of $8,000, and dedicated by Pastor Graeppe on November 19, 1893. Many beautiful and appropriate gifts came from members and friends of the congregation. A number of them were presented as memorials. A two-manual pipe organ was installed in 1894, with one half the cost being paid by Andrew Carnegie. The Pine Street property was sold for the sum of $1,000. A parsonage, near the new church was purchased for $2,500 in December, 1903. On May 13, 1900, the Church Council informed the Missionary Secretary of Synod that "henceforth, this congregation would, with the help of God, be self-supporting." The congregation became debt free in the same year.

The longest pastorate in the history of the congregation was that of the Rev. Nathanael Scheffer, who accepted a call on January 21, 1904 and served until June 19, 1919, when he relinquished his duties as pastor of the congregation, after completing 15 years of faithful service. Among the many achievements noted by this servant of God was the organization of the Women's Missionary Society. During the pastorate of G. W. Critchlow, Trinity sent forth its only "Ministerial son," the Rev. Harlon Miller.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Richard A. Kline, who accepted the call to Trinity in August of 1930, a large basement room for Church School purposes was constructed, and a beautiful memorial stained glass window of Christ in Gethsemane was placed above the altar as well as many other improvements being made. The Rev. Paul E. Daugherty served the congregation 1939-1942, instilling a spirit of cooperation and leading the congregation out of debt.

During the pastorate of Waldemar Buch the church steeple was severely damaged by lightning, and, being condemned by the "City Fathers", was replaced with a tower. In February of 1946, the Rev. John L. Reiner was called to be Trinity's pastor. The program of improving church property was continued under Pastor Reiner's leadership. A second Missionary Society was organized, the Bethesda children became members of Trinity's family and a program to broadcast Sunday Services over the local Radio Station in cooperation with other Protestant faiths in the community was adopted.

The Rev. Lewis Arthur Wagner accepted the call of Trinity and assumed his duties as pastor on January 1, 1951. An extensive remodeling program was undertaken in preparation of Trinity's Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary celebration in 1953. The interior and exterior of the church were given a "new look," at a cost of $20,000. Appropriate services for the dedication of improvements and for the observance of the Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary were conducted during the year of 1953.

A complete list of pastors is as follows: Philip Muckenhaupt, 1803-1811; W. H. Scriba (supply), 1811; Peter Rupert (supply), 1814; C. W. Colsen, 1815-1816; J. C. F. Heyer, 1817-1818; Peter Rupert, 1819-1822; Philip Meyerhoeffer, 1822-1826; Michael Kuchler, 1826-1829; W. E. Schulze, 1829-1832; Supplies, 1832-1842; J. D. Nunnemacher, 1842-1845; Henry Ziegler, 1846-1850; Supplies, 1850-1857; Henry Weicksel, 1857-1858; A. B. Bierdemann, 1859-1865; J. G. Boehm, 1865-1867; G. A.

Bruegal, 1867-1868; A. B. Bierdemann (second term), 1868-1870; W. F. Deiss, 1870-1875; G. L. L. Kittel, 1876-1877; P. G. Doepkin, 1877-1879; Gerhard Weise, 1879-1880; H. A. Schmidt, 1880-1881; F. E. Fickeisen, 1882-1883; E. Cressman and G. W. Critchlow (supplies), 1884-1885; Herman Gilbert (German supply), 1884-1885; J. H. Orr, 1885-1890; A. G. Voigt (German supply), 1890; G. W. Critchlow (supply), 1890-1892; A. R. J. Graeppe, 1892-1894; J. H. Orr (second term), 1894-1899; A. L. Benze, 1899-1901; Charles Koerner, 1901-1903; Nathanael Scheffer, 1904-1919; S. H. Roth, 1919-1922; G. W. Critchlow, 1922-1930; R. A. Kline, 1930-1938; Paul E. Daugherty, 1939-1942; Waldemar Buch, 1943-1945; John Reiner, 1946-1950; and L. A. Wagner, 1951 —.

Membership December 31, 1955 — Baptized, 688; Confirmed, 531; Communing, 398.

Mercer County St. John's 1837

ST. JOHN'S was organized as a union church January 1, 1837 by Pastor Philip Zeiser of the Reformed and Pastor Michael Kuchler of the Lutherans. On May 14, 1837 the first communion service was held in a log church erected at a cost of $60.00. Practically all of the 33 persons who participated in the first communion were former members of Good Hope Lutheran Church, Shenango.

The church book records a baptism as early as April 17, 1835, but this may have been entered at a later date. On March 23, 1838 John Haas and his wife Sarah deeded to Isaac Siegfried and Daniel Steiger in trust for St. John's church, an acre of ground at the corner of Mercer and Greenville roads for a consideration of $10.00. The ground was given for the exclusive use of St. John's Church as a place of worship, school and burial ground. Because of this gift of ground St. John's has been known as the "Haas Church".

The old log church erected by the original members did not long meet the needs of the congregation, and a substantial frame church was dedicated in 1846. This church located in the forks, across the road from the old log church, and was modeled after the old Westmoreland churches, with a gallery on three sides and a high pulpit in the center above the altar. It was so well constructed that it served the congregation for 75 years.

This second church was replaced by a brick building erected at a cost of $50,000. The cornerstone of this church was laid September 5, 1920 and dedicated October 30, 1921. Pastor C. E. Schweikert was then serving the Lutheran congregation. At the time of this dedication the Lutheran congregation numbered 320.

In 1936 the congregation celebrated its hundredth anniversary with services held from October 18 to 25.

Ministers who have served this church are: Michael Kuchler, 1837-1839; F. C. Becker, 1840-1847; Theodore Hengist, 1847-1851; Gottlieb Kranz, 1852-1857; Michael Kuchler (second term), 1858-1874; Supplies, 1874-1880; C. A. Fetzer, 1880-1887; W. M. Rehrig, Ph. D., 1887-1894; Nathanael Scheffer, 1895-1896; W. G. Dressler, 1896-1897; S. B. Stupp, 1897-1901; Peter Riffer, 1902-1910; Wilson Yeisley, 1910-1919; C. E. Schweikert, 1920-1947; J. C. Klingensmith, 1947 —.

Middle Lancaster (Cranberry Twp.)
Hope 1916

HOPE Church is about 25 miles north of Pittsburgh, two miles from Route 19 on Route 528, or Franklin Road. Dr. J. E. Bittle organized the congregation on October 15, 1916, with 43 members, most of whom had been members of a nearby Presbyterian Church. Several days later Hope Church became a member of the General Synod as a congregation of the Pittsburgh Synod. From 1916 to 1918 it was connected with the Beechview Mission; from 1918 to 1923, it was connected with Trinity Church, Butler; in 1923 it was aligned with the Oak Grove Parish by action of the Pittsburgh Synod. Finally, in 1955, it was re-aligned with the Middle Lancaster Parish.

Thomas Croft donated an acre of ground at Franklin Road station, and the congregation erected a brick and stone Church at the cost of $6500; September 2, 1917 saw the laying of the cornerstone, and the Rev. J. R. Nicholas, pastor, dedicated the building July 28, 1918. The debt was finally paid in 1922.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Lewis Hettrick, the congregation added to the beauty of the chancel by hanging a maroon dossal curtain behind the altar. Also, the basement was decorated and renovated, and a kitchen was added. Other improvements have been: the purchase of a new brass altar set (Cross, Candelsticks, and Vases), the installation of a parking lot, the installation of a new floor in the furnace room, and the erection of a new bulletin board. Nearly all of the material and labor for these improvements have been volunteered by the men and women of the congregation.

The baptized membership numbers about 100; the Sunday School staff has been organized, and now holds regular monthly meetings.

The pastors who have labored in this congregation are: W. K. Himes, 1916-1918; J. R. Nicholas, 1918-1920; F. H. Crissman, 1921-1923; A. G. Fisher, 1923-1931; Guy M. Wilson, 1931-1941; Elwood G. Hoffman, 1941-1946; Frank H. Miller, 1946-1951; Vacant, 1953; Louis Hetrick, 1953-1955; Henry F. Obenauf, 1955; Theodore C. Scheifele (supply), 1955-1956; Charles W. Kampmeyer, 1956 —.

Middle Lancaster (Old Stone)
St. John's 1806

ONE of the oldest churches in this community is St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Originally composed of members of both Reformed and Lutheran congregations, it finally became distinctly Lutheran in 1806. St. John's is the parent of several congregations, notably Zion Lutheran Church, Middle Lancaster, and the congregations in Prospect and West Liberty. Originally, the services were conducted in German, but in 1856 English was given as prominent a place as German.

The first record of services held is the year 1806, when the Rev. Philip Moeckenhaupt (Muckenhaupt) held them at John Beighley's (Buechle) new barn.

The founders of the congregation were settlers who had come into the area from Westmoreland and Franklin (Cumberland) counties.

Pastor Muckenhaupt continued as pastor until 1808, when the Rev. Michael J. Steck supplied the parish. During his pastorate, a log house was constructed for school as well as for worship.

Pastor Steck was followed by the Rev. J. G. C. Schweizerbarth, who was called as "Bishop" of the congregation in 1820. St. John's was one of eleven parishes which he served. During his pastorate, we find the first record of Communion and Confirmation, dated December 29, 1822. On this day, 32 were confirmed, and 72 received the Sacrament of the Altar. Pastor Schweizerbarth was instrumental in building the present structure, which was begun in 1829; however, construction was delayed until 1831 because of a fire which destroyed much of the furniture. Finally, the building was dedicated on the Festival of St. John in August, 1832.

Pastor Schweizerbarth continued as pastor until 1849, preaching two sermons each week, one in English and the other in German.

The first Communion service to be celebrated in English was in 1856 when the Pittsburgh Synod convened in Zelienople. This was effected under the leadership of the Rev. A. H. Waters, pastor, who was assisted by the Rev. W. A. Passavant.

Today the Congregation celebrates its services in English only, as a result of the diminising proficiency of the members in German. For a time, services were held only every other Sunday, but in July, 1957 weekly services were resumed. The congregation numbers 76 baptized members.

On Reformation Sunday, October 28, 1956, St. John's celebrated its 150th anniversary, with about 160 persons present. Five of the former pastors were invited to return and reminisce with their former parishioners. Those who attended were: The Rev. Ira J. Goehring, Ret; The Rev. W. T. Wilson, 1931-1936; The Rev. H. F. Obenauf, 1942-1955; and The Rev. Theodore C. Scheifele, who supplied the parish during it vacancy of one year.

The pastors who followed Rev. Schweizerbarth were: W. A. Fetter, 1849-1851; Herman Muntz (German), 1852-1853; Anton Lachenmeier (German), 1854; C. F. W. Brecht (German), 1854-1864; Herman Gilbert (German), 1865-1867; J. G. Butz (German), 1867-1868; A. H. Waters (English), 1855-1866; Lewis Hippee (English), 1866-1873; S. H. Swingle, 1874-1879; G. W. Critchlow, 1880-1884; R. R. Durst, 1886-1889; Nathanael Scheffer, 1889-1894; D. B. Stallman, 1895-1900; H. K. Shanor, 1902-1906; C. L. V. Dozer, 1907-1910; D. H. Gerbericht, 1913-1917; J. V. Sappenfield, 1917-1920; J. A. Frischkorn, 1920-1924; C. L. V. Dozer (Second Term), 1924; W. F. Adolphsen (no definite date); W. T. Wilson, 1931-1936; W. H. Mitchell, 1937-1942; H. F. Obenauf, 1942-1955; T. C. Scheifele (Supply), 1955-1956; C. W. Kampmeyer, 1956 —.

Middle Lancaster — Zion's — 1842

MIDDLE Lancaster is a small community located four miles north of Zelienople, on Route 19. German pioneers, who settled here, found it inconvenient to attend services at the nearest Lutheran church, which was some miles distant. They therefore appealed to the Rev. J. G. C. Schweizerbarth for the organization of a church in their community, and Zion's German and English Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed September 17, 1842. Jacob Swain donated sufficient land for a church building and cemetery, and, with seven other men, built a small frame church, which Pastor Schweizerbarth dedicated September 18, 1843.

For about twenty years, two pastors served the congregation. The Rev. Gottlieb Bassler, who was president of the Pittsburgh Synod, 1848-1850, served as Pastor of the English members until 1861, while Pastor Schweizerbarth cared for the German members. The Pittsburgh Synod convened at the church in 1848.

In 1842, the congregation organized a Sunday School, staffed by both English and German teachers.

On April 8, 1861, the English members formed a separate body, numbering sixty persons, and taking the name, "Zion's English Evangelical Lutheran Church," became another congregation of the Pittsburgh Synod on June 3rd.

During the next thirty years, both German and the English congregations worshipped in the same building, holding services on alternate Sundays. In 1891, the English congregation built a frame church on land just south of the original property. The Rev. G. J. Diener, pastor, dedicated the new building on May 8, 1892. During the pastorate of the Rev. H. K. Shanor, 1894-1906, the congregation erected the parsonage.

After a vacancy of two and one half years, the congregation in 1913 called the Rev. I. J. Goehring as pastor. Under his leadership, the congregation expanded in membership and in the organization of a Cemetery Association, Missionary Society, and Luther League, which sponsored the installation of the Good Shepherd window in the altar recess. Other improvements included the installation of an acetylene lighting system, serving both Church and parsonage; the purchase of a piano and reed organ; and the laying of concrete walks.

The Rev. W. H. Mitchell, who became Pastor in 1937, directed the excavation of the church basement for additional space for Sunday School classes, as well as installing a furnace. The men of the congregation volunteered their labors for these improvements.

In 1942, the Rev. H. F. Obenauf assumed charge of the parish, and directed the completion of the basement, together with the purchase of necessary furnishings for the Church School. Under his leadership, Zion's German congregation re-united with Zion's English congregation, with the English congregation agreeing to care for the German Cemetery. In 1948, the English congregation erected two stone pillars as memorials, using the foundation stones of the old church. The south pillar preserves the cornerstone, which contains materials from 1842, along with mementoes of 1948.

In October, 1947, the congregation managed to purchase a new Minshall-Estey Amplified Reef Organ.

After Pastor Obenauf's retirement in 1955, the Rev. Theodore C. Scheifele supplied the parish, until the Rev. C. W. Kampmeyer received and accepted the call as Pastor in June, 1956.

The Parish currently consists of three congregations: Hope Lutheran Church, Franklin Road; Zion Lutheran Church, Middle Lancaster; and St. John's (Old Stone) Lutheran Church, Lancaster Township. All three churches are located in Butler County.

The following is a list of the pastors who served: Gottlieb Bassler, 1842-1861; Josiah McPherrin, 1861-1862; A. H. Waters, 1863-1864; Jonathan Sarver, 1864-1866; Gottlieb Bassler (second term), 1866-1867; G. W. Frederick, 1867-1868; M. L. Kunkelman, 1868-1870; David McKee (supply), 1870-1871; M. L. Kunkelman (second term), 1871-1877; Peter Riffer, 1878-1890; G. J. Diener, 1891-1894; H. K. Shanor, 1894-1906; C. L. V. Dozer, 1907-1910; I. J. Goehring, 1913-1925; H. C. Glander, 1925-1927; F. C. H. Scholz, 1927-1930; I. J. Goehring (second term), 1930-1931; W. T. Wilson, 1931-1936; W. H. Mitchell, 1937-1942; H. F. Obenauf, 1942-1955; T. C. Scheifele (supply), 1955-1956; C. W. Kampmeyer, 1956 —.

Mill Creek St. Paul's 1948

IN July of 1947 a survey was made in the Grubb Road and West 32nd Street area, Millcreek Township, Erie, Pa., by the Board of American Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod which revealed not only a large Lutheran constituency, but a large number of families desiring that a Christian Church be established in their community. Thus encouraged, the first services were held on September 7, 1947 in the Montclair School building, Grubb Road. Rev. Wayne C. Peterman of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Erie, was in charge of the initial service.

Progress was made and on February 1, 1948 the group officially organized into a congregation. The Organizational Service was held in St. John's Lutheran Church, 23rd and Peach St., Erie. There were 96 charter members on the roll at the time of organization. The Rev. Wayne C. Peterman was extended an official call as the pastor.

Plans were immediately laid for the erection of the first unit of the new church building on lots between Homer Avenue and Caton Street and facing Grubb Road. This property had already been purchased by the Pittsburgh Synod and donated to the congregation. Mr. Edwin W. Werle was engaged as the architect. A basement unit was built and dedicated July 13, 1949.

The congregation continued to grow until it was felt that some new alignment of congregations should be effected. In the spring of 1950 St. Peter's Church, Hershey Road, Erie, Pa., became a part of this new alignment to form a new parish named The Millcreek Parish of the Erie Conference. A call was extended to Rev. George D. Wolfe to become the pastor of this newly constituted parish of St. Peter's and St. Paul's congregations. The call was accepted and pastor Wolfe began his work in September of 1950.

The growth of the congregation pointed to further expansion of facilities. In consultation with the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church and the Board of Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod it was decided to erect a chapel as the second unit in the over-all building plan. The architectural firm of Myers, Krider, Werle and Ellenberger was engaged to draw up the plans. Bids were submitted and The Davis Construction Company of Erie, Pa., was awarded the contract for $29,570. This did not include furnishings, lights, painting and landscaping. The total cost was not to exceed $41,000. The actual cost was $36,000. A Baldwin Electronic Organ was later purchased for $3300. The chapel is complete and is a beautiful place of worship.

The ground-breaking service for the chapel was held on September 14, 1952, with Rev. William Leubin delivering the sermon. Work continued throughout the winter. A special service for laying the date stone was held on February 22, 1953, and the Dedicatory Service was on July 19, 1953, with Rev. F. B. Haer, delivering the sermon.

Additional property has been acquired. One lot was a gift to the congregation by Mr. and Mrs. Myron Latimer and the purchase of two lots and a dwelling from the same party increases parking facilities and will provide for future expansion. The next expansion will, in all probability, be the educational unit. The expanding Sunday School and other activities require more space.

The pastors who served the congregation are: Wayne C. Peterman, 1948-1950; Charles Zacher (student supply), June-August of 1950; George D. Wolfe, 1950-1957; Luther Clare, 1957 —.

Mill Creek St. Peter's 1836

BETWEEN the years 1828 and 1834 a number of Pennsylvania Germans took up lands in Walnut Creek Valley. For several years they journeyed to Erie to receive the sacraments of the Church, and then in 1836 were organized into a congregation by Rev. Carl F. E. Stohlmann. As such they were made a part of Erie Parish. The place of meeting was not satisfactory to the Millcreek people, however, and they were reorganized as St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church by Pastor Michael Kuchler February 1, 1848. The first service of the new organization was held in a schoolhouse, near the forks of the road west of the present church, but the people were ready and anxious to secure a church home of their own.

Genuine devotion was displayed in building. The land was donated by Solomon Weigel, and, for this reason, the congregation was frequently called by his name. Peter Rhodes donated material and helped John Schlabach with the carpenter work. This church, though built of frame, was set on such a solid foundation that it has served the congregation as a place of worship to the present day. It was given a thorough renovation during the pastorate of Rev. G. H. Schoemperlen and rededicated by him April 25, 1875.

Pastor Kuchler served a parish of three churches and rarely missed appointments. From 1850 to 1851 he was absent from the parish because of ill health, and Rev. C. G. Stuebgen of Erie supplied St. Peter's during his absence. In 1859 the Pittsburgh Synod decided to establish the Lake Shore Mission, the same to consist of Millcreek, Fairview, and a mission to be organized in Erie; but the usual difficulty was experienced in securing a capable missionary, and the Erie Mission was not organized until August 15, 1861. The first pastor of the Lake Shore Mission was Rev. J. H. Stuckenberg, who served from 1861 to 1865, with an intermission of thirteen months, during which he served as army chaplain.

His successor was Rev. C. F. Boehner, who served Millcreek and Fairview from 1865 to 1867, organizing St. John's Church of Girard, May 13, 1866, and adding it to the parish. During the same time he did pioneer missionary work at Corry, Drake's Mills and Ashtabula, under the direction of the missionary superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod.

After his resignation, September 1, 1867, Rev. Herman Eggers was called. His pastorate continued from 1868 to 1870, during which English services were introduced and the parish became self-sustaining. This pastor also organized the first Sunday School of the congregation, but the language question led to its dissolution. The present Sunday School organization was not effected until 1911. The next three pastors were Rev. W. F. Seeger, Rev. G. H. Schoemperlen, and Rev. J. A. J. Zahn, the last rendering exceptional service, and building up a congregation of 163 members. When he resigned, March 6, 1882, great difficulty was experienced in securing a successor, so that the congregation remained vacant 14 years.

Rev. E. J. Meissner began to supply them in 1895, but found little more than a remnant of the congregation of former days. Careful catechization by this pastor created new hope, and he was permitted to minister to a growing congregation from October 25, 1896 to December 16, 1906. Under his leadership the church recovered a measure of her former strength, although a number of good families were lost when Trinity Church of McKean was organized in 1897. The next pastor was Rev. R. E. McDaniel, Ph. D., who served from 1907 to 1910. Then followed

another vacancy of four years. Rev. M. R. Kunkelman supplied the congregation from November 1, 1914 to April 1, 1915, and then served as the regular pastor until August 11, 1918.

At that time there was another realignment of parish lines, Millcreek, McKean, and Franklin Center united to form Erie County Parish. This parish had two pastors, Rev. John A. L. Mensch and Rev. Franklin W. Boyer, who made their homes in McKean. In 1925 Drakes Mills was again added to the parish. This parish alignment remained until 1950, with the exception of Franklin Center. This congregation continued to get smaller until it was finally dropped from the parish.

Prior to 1950 a new mission had begun on Grubb Road just west of the city line. With the growth of this new mission (St. Paul's), it became necessary to form a new parish. As a result St. Peter's and St. Paul's was admitted to the Synod in convention in May at First Church, Greensburg, 1950. The parish was named Millcreek Parish. Rev. George D. Wolf was extended a call to serve the newly created parish. He began his work September 1, 1950.

In 1951 the church was again redecorated and new a chancel constructed, making it a place of rest and beauty. It still remains, however, as "The Little White Church on The Hill." In 1954 the congregation was the recipient of a gift of property from Att. Howard Platte. This gift added 100 ft. to the frontage on Hershey Rd. and 55 ft. to the rear of the original property.

The following pastors have served the congregation: F. E. Stohlman, 1836-1838; Michael Kuchler, 1839-1850; C. G. Stuebgen, 1850-1851; Michael Kuchler (2nd call), 1851-1858; J. W. Semler (supply), 1859; J. H. W. Stuckenberg, 1861-1865; C. F. Boehner, 1865-1867; Herman Eggers, 1868-1870; W. F. Seeger, 1870-1873; G. H. Schoemperlen, 1873-1876; J. A. J. Zahn, 1876-1882; Vacant, 1882-1895; E. J. Meissner, 1895-1906; R. E. McDaniel, Ph. D., 1907-1910; Supplies, 1910-1914; M. R. Kunkelman, 1914-1918; J. A. L. Mensch, 1918-1919; J. A. Beighey (supply), 1919-1920; F. W. Boyer, 1920-1925; J. W. Dean, 1926-1930; Chester A. Bird, 1930-1936; Roy S. Schultz, 1936-1946; Franklin H. Schott, 1946-1947; R. Russell Riethmiller, 1947-1950; Mr. Charles H. Zacher (student supply), 1950; George D. Wolfe, 1950-1957; Luther K. Clare, 1957 —.

Millvale Christ 1900

THE first attempt to plant an English Lutheran Church in this community was made by Pastor H. N. Follmer of Mt. Zion Church. A number of families of Mt. Zion lived in Millvale, and a Sunday School was opened for the benefit of the children in 1896. During the week a prayer meeting was also conducted. The school and prayer meeting flourished for a season then disbanded. The people were conscious of their spiritual needs, however, and never gave up the idea of establishing a church of their faith. The matter was brought to the attention of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod in 1900, and Christ's Church was organized by Pastor Follmer and Dr. C. B. King, November 10, 1900. The organization started with forty members, the greater part of whom came from Mt. Zion Church. An effort was made at the same time to organize a General Council Church, but when it became clear that the field was naturally a part of Mt. Zion Parish, the General Council workers withdrew.

The first regular pastor was Rev. C. A. Boory, who served from December 3, 1900 to August 31, 1905. For the first year the church was served in connection

with Mt. Olivet, and then made a separate mission parish. Services were first held in the Opera house, and then for two years in the third floor of Goodwin's Hall. Two lots on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Sedgwick St. were bought and a church erected at a total cost of $13,500. Church members borrowed money on their own personal responsibility to get the building started, and the Church Extension Board came to their aid with a substantial loan. The church was dedicated by Pastor Boory December 27, 1903.

The second pastor was Rev. S. E. Smith, whose term of service extended from November 1, 1905 to July 1, 1911. Much credit is due this pastor for his careful organization of the congregation for service and the development of the membership. The troublesome floating indebtedness was paid, and many needed improvements were made to the property. During the pastorate of Rev. I. W. Trostle there was a serious landslide in the rear of the church, and a large rock broke through the rear wall. The accident aroused such sympathy for the congregation that the misfortune proved a blessing in disguise, and gave the congregation new spirit. During the pastorate of Dr. J. J. Hill, the entire debt was paid, and the new church became a self-sustaining parish November 1, 1919.

In 1933 the Rev. C. B. Daniels was called, and the greatest period of growth was experienced during the 20 years of his pastorate. A fire in 1947 damaged the church and the decision to build or remodel was thrust upon the congregation. The eventual dream of a new building was pushed to the future and the church was remodeled for temporary use. Pastor Daniels and the building committee labored for years over the plans of the new church, attempting to combine beauty and utility at the lowest possible cost. Two lots were purchased on North Avenue, along with an option to purchase a third. Pastor Daniel's resignation early in 1953 did not stop the congregation's progress. The plans were approved by the State before the arrival of the next pastor, the Rev. K. R. May. The new church was dedicated August 22, 1954. The church has continued to progress under Pastor May. The scattering congregation presented a problem which was solved by the purchase of a bus which picks up children for Sunday School and some adults for church. The parsonage, now showing signs of deterioration, was replaced by a new one on December 15, 1955.

The pastorates in regular order were as follows: C. A. Boory, 1900-1905; S. E. Smith, 1905-1911; E. E. Hoshour, 1912-1913; I. W. Trostle, 1913-1916; J. J. Hill, 1916-1928; B. R. Shaffer, 1928-1933; C. B. Daniels, 1933-1953; K. R. May, 1953 —.

Millvale (Shaler Twp.) St. Luke's 1860

AT ABOUT the time the United States was entering upon the Civil War, The Rev. John George Mueller of the Evangelical Church, entered the commuity known as Bauerstown, in the southwest portion of Shaler Township, Pa. He gathered about him a few Lutheran families and held services in German in the Bauer and Sauter homes.

Shortly thereafter, on land given by Martin Bauer, a small frame church, costing $1,500 was erected and dedicated in 1861. This building was located on the west side of old Evergreen Road, now 1663 Babcock Blvd., about two blocks north of the present church. Many of the original members were gardeners, who sold their produce in the Allegheny market. The Bauer family had five members

in the first confirmation class of 1861, the name after whom the community was called. Pastor Mueller served faithfully for 26 years until March 27, 1887. The little congregation was known as the United German Evangelical Protestant Church of Girty's Run.

On April 11, 1887, The Rev. Ursinus Hangaertner, was called at $600 a year and on May 8, 1887 was ordained in the old church. He served for 3 years until July 27, 1890.

While the above two pastors were members of the Evangelical Synod, the congregation remained independent.

The next pastorate was that of The Rev. Claudius Heinrich Oevermann. He served for 32 years from September 14, 1890 until his death on July 24, 1922. He also served the German Evangelical Church of Tarentum on Sunday afternoons and evenings. German services were held in the old frame building until 1899. A more desirable church site containing about two acres, had been purchased for $1,300 in 1883. Several lots were sold from it for $8,000 and the present brick edifice was erected in 1899 for $11,000 and dedicated in June 1900. A frame parsonage was then built on ground adjoining the church and the old frame church was remodeled as a dwelling in 1902. It was finally sold on July 6, 1925, and still stands today. During the later part of his ministry. Pastor Oevermann introduced English services for the young people. Near the close of his ministry in 1922, the congregation voted to unite with the Pittsburgh Synod.

In October, 1922, a call was issued to the Rev. Frederick Carl Frommhagen who was installed on November 5, by Dr. E. B. Burgess and The Rev. J. J. Hill. From then on services were conducted in English, except for an occasional German service for the older people. Even they were discontinued sometime in 1923. The Common Service Book was adopted at this time. On April 15, 1923, special services were held to burn the mortgage. At this time the St. Luke's Messenger made its first appearance. The church and parsonage were completely renovated at a cost of $4,600 and rededicated on November 16, 1924. On March 23, 1926, the name of the church was changed to the present one. On September 13, 1926, work began on the raising of the church above ground level and the addition of a basement for Sunday School facilities. On Mother's Day, May 12, 1929, a memorial pipe organ, costing $5,000, was dedicated. Pastor Frommhagen served 13 years until August, 1935.

The present pastor, The Rev. John Whitford Pfahler, was called on June 29, 1947 and installed that July 29th. On Easter, 1949, the mortgage was burned. In June and July of 1950, waters from Girty's Run flooded the basement and a flood system of walls and gates was built. At the present time an Expansion Fund is being raised to build a new parsonage, secure adjacent property, and begin work on an educational building.

Ground for St. Luke's Cemetery was purchased in 1867 for $2,400, in 1909 for $500, and in 1931 for about $4,000. It is about four blocks north of the church and is bounded by Babcock Blvd., Greenhill Rd., and Martha Ave.

The following pastors have served this parish: J. G. Mueller, 1860-1887; U. Hangaertner, 1887-1890; C. H. Oevermann, 1890-1922; F. C. Frommhagen, 1922-1935; J. E. Shaughnessy, 1936-1939; H. G. Harvey, 1940-1944; R. W. Yeany, 1944-1946; J. W. Pfahler, 1947 —.

Monaca Redeemer 1868

(See Plate 26)

THE first attempt to found an English Lutheran Church in Monaca, which was then Phillipsburg, was made by Dr. W. A. Passavant in 1865. He was assisted by Rev. Henry Beck, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Rochester, Pa. When Thiel Hall was opened in 1866, the need for an English Lutheran Church became all the more apparent, and an annual appropriation was made by the Pittsburgh Synod to further the work. An English Sunday School was started by Professor William Kopp in 1867. On November 28, 1868 Professor Henry E. Jacobs organized a congregation with six members and called it "The Church of the Redeemer". He reorganized the Sunday School with 12 teachers and 85 pupils. For nearly three years services were held at an early morning hour in the German Church, now St. Peter's Lutheran Church, with occasional evening service in Thiel Hall.

Then came the removal of Thiel Hall to Greenville, Pa., upon which this work that had become so promising was entirely disbanded until 1877, when Dr. Passavant revived it and began holding English services in St. Peter's Church on Sunday evenings. The Synod connected Monaca with Rochester in 1879, but Pastor C. H. Hemsath became discouraged with the small returns, and in 1880 surrendered the field to Rev. W .A. Passavant, Jr., who was then serving a parish composed of churches at Baden, Logstown, Rehoboth and Crows Run. Edward R. Frank took charge of the reorganized Sunday School. On May 7, 1882 a provisional organization was effected. On July 1, 1887 the church was more fully organized, a constitution was adopted, and provision was made for the securing of a charter.

Rev. W. A. Passavant, Jr., served as supply pastor from May 7, 1882, to October 24, 1886, when he accepted a formal call and served until December 1, 1889. The congregation was admitted to the Synod in 1887. A charter was received August 30, 1889. The incorporated name of the congregation is — "The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer", though now it is generally referred to and listed as just "Redeemer Lutheran Church".

For nearly seven years services were held in St. Peter's Church. The congregation now fully organized took steps immediately towards securing a church home. Two lots on Washington Ave. just west of Ninth St. were purchased for $1,050. On one stood a carpenter shop. The shop was sold for $100 and one of the lots for $550, leaving the net cost of the lot $400. On February 16, 1888 the congregation voted to build. The cornerstone was laid on September 2, 1888. It is from this date all anniversaries have been set. The total cost of the church building when opened for the first service March 17, 1889 was $4,771. Total debt was $3,726. It was unplastered and without a ceiling. Pews were donated from First Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh. It was decided the church should not be dedicated until entirely free of debt.

While Rev. Passavant's work as pastor in Monaca practically ended at the close of 1889 when his duties as Missionary Superintendent took him away from his parish so much of the time, he did not officially resign as pastor until March 30, 1891. The Synod was petitioned to unite Monaca with New Brighton and have Rev. F. W. Kohler serve both congregations, which was granted and Rev. Kohler began his work in Monaca November 1, 1890, first as supply, and then in May, 1891 as regular pastor, serving till October 27, 1894.

In 1891 the church was completed. In 1892 the old pulpit, altar, and lectern from First Church, Pittsburgh, were given to the Redeemer Church. When Rev. Kohler took full charge, the membership numbered 66 with a Sunday School en-

rollment of 140. During his pastorate 18 members were added to the roll, but just as many were lost. The debt was reduced to $2,700.

For two years the congregation was vacant, being supplied by Student E. O. Graham and Rev. J. Q. Waters. In 1896 the Redeemer congregation was joined with the mission at Woodlawn, now Aliquippa, and a call extended to Rev. C. L. Holloway, who took charge December 1, 1896 and served the parish up to November 30, 1901, when he was compelled to resign on account of his health. During his pastorate the membership increased to 94. The church debt reduced to $1,500. On January 10, 1898 a Luther League was organized. A new heating system was installed and gas lighting took the place of oil.

After a vacancy of five months, Rev. R. G. Rosenbaum became pastor of the Woodlawn-Monaca parish, entering upon his duties May 1, 1902. A year later the parish was divided, and since 1903 the Monaca church has been by itself. Rev. Rosenbaum was elected Missionary Superintendent, and relinquished his pastorate June 15, 1907. Membership increased to 143. Church debt was reduced to $500. Aisles of the church were carpeted and the robe introduced.

Rev. I. H. Stetler became the next pastor October 1, 1907, serving till April 7, 1912. During his first year the debt was entirely paid and the congregation voted to become self supporting as of July 1, 1909. During 21 years as a mission it received from the funds of Synod a total of $5,100. The congregation now free of debt decided to dedicate the church, and at the same time to celebrate in a fitting way its 20th Anniversary. This took place on Sunday morning, September 6, 1908, which included also the burning of the mortgage. When Rev. Stetler resigned the membership had reached the 200 mark. During his pastorate a Moller pipe organ was installed at a cost of $1,000, of which Andrew Carnegie paid half.

Rev. Charles E. Dozer became pastor July 21, 1912 and served till December 10, 1916. During his pastorate 76 members were received, but again the losses equalled the gains. A Brotherhood was organized January 18, 1915, and has always remained active. A Missionary Society was organized in October of the same year. He strongly advocated the securing of a parsonage and thus paved the way for his successor.

Property, known as the Kaye property, which is located just the other side of an alley from the church, was purchased at a cost of $4,400. The lot, 99 by 116, had a six room house on it. It was remodeled, and two rooms added, at a cost of $654. The entire amount was borrowed. Misunderstanding arose during World War I because of which the congregation suffered greatly, its membership being reduced to about 150.

About 1920 $1,000 was paid on the parsonage debt. A bronze plaque was placed in the church as a memorial to Pastor A. P. Lentz who died in 1926. As a living memorial, is the women's organized Sunday School Class that bears his name: "The A. P. Lentz Bible Class."

On June 20, 1926 the present pastor, Dr. Charles E. Read, began his ministry, called from the Wesleyville Parish where he had served for ten years. A church debt of $4,000, incurred largely from the purchase of the parsonage, was paid off by September 1, 1930.

A cement block garage was built in 1930. The church building was thoroughly renovated in 1935 at a total cost of $3,337. Again in 1944 new pews were installed, with a tile floor.

The largest and most extensive church improvement was made in 1948 when a basement was put under the entire church, and extended beyond to the end of

the lot. This with a number of other improvements and changes within the church were made at a total cost of $48,588. In 1950 the property adjoining the church on the east, on which is a six room frame house, was purchased at a cost of $7,000. In 1948 Dr. Read's son, John C. Read, made and donated to the church an altar, lectern, communion rail and shelf for offering plates. In 1953 a new public address system was purchased, and the stained glass windows all set in new sash.

What is now known as the A. P. Lentz Ladies Bible Class was organized November 5, 1933. A junior Missionary Society, later named the C. E. Read Missionary Society, was organized in September 1934, an Altar Guild March 30, 1954, a Married Couples Class January 21, 1949, and a standing Committee on Evangelism in October, 1955.

The church was twice struck with lightning: March 24, 1947 and May 17, 1948, both times in exactly the same place, just at the base of the cross, completely demolishing the steeple, causing damage totaling $4,825.

During World War II, 131 men and 4 women were in the armed forces. Four men lost their lives.

The congregation again became debt free before the end of 1953.

A Daily Vacation Bible School was conducted by the congregation alone from the years 1927 to 1934 during the entire month of June. Since 1944 it has been conducted in union with the other churches of town, two weeks in June.

The following ministers have served Redeemer: W. A. Passavant, Jr., 1882-1889; J. W. Myers (supply), 1889-1890; F. W. Kohler, 1890-1894; E. O. Graham (student supply), 1895; J. Q. Waters (supply), 1895-1896; C. L. Holloway, 1896-1902; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1902-1907; I. H. Stetler, 1907-1912; C. E. Dozer, 1912-1916; H. S. Gilbert, 1916-1918; A. P. Lentz, 1918-1926; Charles E. Read, D. D., 1926--1958; Frank B. Herzel, 1958 —.

Monaca St. Peter's 1832

THE beginning of the congregation can be traced back to March 6, 1832, when, under the leadership of Count Maximilian de Leon, a group of about 250 sturdy German pioneers, seceding from the Harmony Society and Colony of Economy, (now Ambridge, Pa.) bought over 800 acres of land on which Monaca now stands and started a new settlement, known as the "New Philadelphia Society." Because of the religious nature of the new enterprise the building of a proper House of Worship was the chief concern of all. The building of the church was completed in the same year. It was the first substantial stone church in Beaver County, and was designed by Count de Leon himself. Its simplicity and architectural beauty as well as the excellent craftsmanship throughout are an eloquent testimony as to the caliber, quality and character of these first settlers. The community was then known as Phillipsburg, named after Stephen Phillips, one of the earlier settlers.

In 1829, Count de Leon introduced himself to "Father Rapp," leader of the original Harmony Society, through a letter, written by his spiritual advisor and secretary, Dr. Samuel George Goentgen. His message was enthusiastically received and interpreted as a message coming from God as an answer to Rapp's prayers. De Leon was invited to come to Economy. A year later he arrived at Economy together with forty-five persons and received by Father Rapp with open arms.

The harmony, that first seemed to exist between Father Rapp and de Leon, did not last long. Their cultural background and character were so different. The Count soon began to preach in opposition to Father Rapp, especially against celibacy, wisely realizing that such a doctrine and practice would bring about the natural death of that new movement. Soon it came to an open break. In the meantime the more attractive doctrine of the Count made many converts, and a considerable faction of the community began to favor the Count in opposition to Rapp.

On March 6, 1832, an agreement was signed, whereby Count de Leon and his adherents were to leave Economy and the Society was to pay the seceders the sum of $105,000, in three installments within a year. When a decision was called, about 300 persons stood up for Count de Leon and left Economy under the leadership of the Count. Of this number only 241 remained with the count and organized the "New Philadelphia Congregation," after which the town was also named, New Philadelphia.

The customs of this new settlement were somewhat similar to the Harmonists but more liberal. Marriage was encouraged, and the return of normal relationship to man and wife urged.

It was only too natural that financial difficulties would set in. The Count proved to be a poor business manager. In less than eighteen months the strained financial condition of the concern compelled a dissolution, which was publicly announced August 10, 1833.

Thus terminated the second attempt to establish, in Beaver County, a social and business organization on the community basis. The property and debts were divided among the members and the community system abandoned. Many members of the New Philadelphia Society scattered to other places.

The work of the church was kept up by the remaining members of the New Philadelphia Congregation. After the dissolution of the Society, the congregation was reorganized and for a time, at least, regular preaching services were conducted by the Rev. H. Daubert, pastor of the United Evangelical Church in Alleghany Town (now Pittsburgh), Pa.

In October, 1836, a petition, both in German and English, was circulated among members and friends of the congregation, soliciting funds for the buying of church properties. The sum of $339.75 was raised in this way by public subscription, signed by 102 persons. In addition $68.50 were subscribed by 33 persons for the painting of the church. Finally, on November 27, 1837, the church properties; namely, the church grounds with church building, the cemetery lot, and the school lot, were legally transferred by a deed from the trustees of the New Philadelphia Society to the trustees of the reorganized congregation.

In the meantime, some of the original charter members having moved from the community, it became once more necessary to reorganize the congregation in 1849, then officially known as the "United Evangelical Protestant Church of St. Peter at Phillipsburg." A clear title of the church properties was secured. All individual members named in the deed of 1837 were paid off and relinquished all rights and claims to the church properties. The second deed was entered April 16, 1849 and was made out in the name of the newly reorganized church and signed by the new trustees of the congregation.

The first regular pastor was the Rev. Edward Ferdinand Winter, called in 1835, and served St. Peter's Church faithfully until March 1, 1859. For half a century he preached the blessed Gospel during which time he founded eleven congregations, among them St. John's Church (commonly knwon as "Burry's

Church"), near Zelienople, where he labored for 44 years. During his pastorate at Phillipsburg, his parish consisted of five churches. Still he found time to cultivate his many talents. He was a fine scholar, accomplished artist and musician. In the summer of 1835 he organized a privately owned Seminary which brought many prominent people to Phillipsburg, thus making it a cultural center. He withdrew from the Synod of the Reformed Church which he joined in 1834. His persistency for this desired union is rather refreshing.

The first records and minutes of the church council and congregational meetings on hand date back to January 22, 1849 the time of the second reorganization of the church. A new constitution was adopted that same year.

On a special school lot, having been set aside for that purpose in the first deed of the congregation, a little red brick schoolhouse was built in 1840. Ten years later, an additional frame building was erected on the same lot, opposite the church. These buildings were used for school purposes until 1884, when the brick buildings were razed, while the frame building was sold to Rev. Dr. William G. Taylor, for the use of a chapel where the Presbyterians at first held their services. On July 1, 1900, the school lots were given to the Borough of Monaca for the use of a public park.

The first church bell in Beaver County was owned by St. Peter's Church. It was a 322 pound bell, cast by John Gallagher, Pittsburgh, for the price of $130.75, and installed in the cupola of the Church, October 31, 1832. It called the children to school and to Sunday School, and the elders to work and to church. This bell was in use at least 52 years. In 1895, it was sent to India and is still used in the Schade Central Girl's High School in Rajahmundry, India, (a mission school of the United Lutheran Church in America) of which Miss Agnes I. Schade, a missionary from St. Peter's Church, was then a teacher and Matron. Together with the bell, the old communion set first used in St. Peter's Church, was also sent to Miss Schade to India.

In connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the church, two new bells were bought and installed in the belfry of the church, in 1882. The two larger bells were in use until 1930, when the famous cupola and bells were removed as a matter of public safety. Plans were then under way to rebuild the belfry, whereby the old historic design of the cupola would be retained, in connection with the centennial of the church. Because of economic conditions throughout the country at that time, plans had to be delayed and were later changed.

St. Peter's Church also has the distinction of having the first pipe organ installed in Beaver Valley. The organ was built by the organ builder Johannes Mueller of Zelienople, Pa., in 1850, for the sum of $240.00. This organ was in use for all church services until 1929, when a new two manual pipe organ was bought and installed. When the old organ was installed, a contract was made with the janitor to have his son engaged as the official organ pumper, for which services he would receive the tempting reward of 50 cents a year, and the father was held responsible for the boy's appearance on time and for his good work and behavior!

Rev. Frederick Zimmermann, a Lutheran minister from the Pittsburgh Synod, succeeded Rev. Winter. He served from 1859 to March 1, 1861.

The Civil War in which the Union was engaged, brought many economic hardships. The young men and fathers of the community enlisted. It is not surprising, therefore, that the next years are marked as a period of much unrest and confusion. The calling of a Lutheran minister in Rev. Zimmermann strengthened

the Lutheran element within the congregation. However, the establishment of Thiel Hall at Phillipsburg, in 1866, a Lutheran institution of higher learning of the Pittsburgh Synod, (which later became Thiel College), proved to be a great blessing to the congregation. It seems that all factions were well satisfied with the Lutheran leadership. Since 1865 all the pastors of St. Peter's Church, with the exception of Rev. Orend, have been members of the Pittsburgh Synod of the United Lutheran Church.

Under Rev. Born a charter was secured — December, 1874 — and recorded April 2, 1877. Also a new constitution was adopted whereby the following compromise was made:

"Art. 8. The pastor or minister . . . shall be a minister in good standing either in the German Reformed Church, in the Lutheran Church, or in the German United Evangelical Protestant Church, and who believes in the divinity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in the Apostles' Creed commonly so called.

"Art. 9. The confirmation of children shall be in accordance with the rites, usages and requirements of such one of the three churches name in the preceding article."

No doubt, the removal of Thiel College to Greenville, Pa., in 1871, revived the spark. Seemingly, Rev. Born, a staunch Lutheran, hoping for greater Lutheran harmony, delayed the recording of the charter. It was recorded after he left the congregation. Officially this same charter and constitution were still in force until 1930, when under the present pastor, Rev. Hans O. F. Simoleit, an amendment of the charter was secured according to the faith, doctrines, principles, discipline, usages, confessions and practices of the United Lutheran Church in America. Although the congregation was commonly known as St. Peter's German Lutheran Church since 1865, the legal name still remained as "United Evangelical Protestant Church of St. Peter" until the amended charter was recorded in 1930.

With the coming of Rev. F. C. E. Lemcke, a period of marked progress in the life of the congregation began. He served from 1876 until December 1, 1901. This was his first and only parish, consisting of St. Paul's, Rochester; St. Peter's, Monaca, and St. John's Freedom. He died the following year, 1902, in Philadelphia, Pa. In 1888, a vestibule was added to the church, new memorial stained glass windows and new pews installed as well as a new heating system.

Through the missionary zeal of Rev. Lemcke, Miss Agnes I. Schade became particularly interested in Foreign Missions. Reared and educated in this community, she took an active part in the work of the church. Being a public school teacher, she was accepted by the church as an educational missionary and in 1890 sent to India. She was the first single woman missionary commissioned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church (General Council). After a period of over 35 years of faithful services in this field, ill health compelled her to give up her work. She retired in 1925 and returned to Monaca where she spent her declining years. She died on December 19, 1938, and is buried in the old Monaca Church Cemetery.

St. Peter's Church has been the birth place of the English Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, which began holding services in St. Peter's Church as early as 1865, during the existence of Thiel Hall and Thiel College in the community, and again following its reorganization in 1888 until the erection of their own edifice in 1889. A Union Sunday School during the afternoon hours and occasionally English services in the evening helped to serve a real need during these years of industrial expansion which brought many non-Lutherans into the community and others who no longer understood the German language.

The decision to have their own pastor, separated from the former parish affiliation, was a poor choice. The man called to follow Rev. Lemcke was a free-lancer, Rev. Michael Orendt, without any synodical connection. At best, it was a costly experiment! He lasted just one year (February, 1902 to February, 1903). Rev. P. Kummer, a member of the Pittsburgh Synod, served from July 1903 to July 1905.

Since July, 1905, when Rev. Robert Barner, then pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rochester, was called, the parish consisted again of St. Paul's, Rochester, and St. Peter's, Monaca. Pastor Barner served the parish faithfully until the time of his sudden death, January 19, 1925. The membership was gradually decreasing. Many of the children of the original stock had joined the English Redeemer Lutheran Church or moved out of town. In the meantime an entirely new generation, chiefly composed of Transylvania Saxons (Siebenburger Sachsen) had settled in the community. However, the majority of the Saxons were not interested in a permanent church home, at that time.

Only 33 active church members were accounted for when the present pastor, Rev. Hans O. F. Simoleit, began his ministry, February 1, 1925. It was through the Pittsburgh Synod's new Home Mission enterprise of organizing the Siebenburger Saxons into congregations, beginning in 1922, that Saxon colonies in many cities throughout the U. S. became conscious of a permanent church home, at least for their children's sake. As their own children grew up, the thought of returning to their former homeland after World War I was finally given up. It was through this Saxon Home Mission movement of the Pittsburgh Synod that many Saxon families in Monaca were won back to the church and helped to fill the depleting ranks.

In connection with the centennial jubilee of the church in 1932, the chancel of the church was completely remodeled. New chancel furniture and altar brass ware were received and dedicated as memorial gifts. Other extensive improvements continued through the years. The basement of the church, for over 100 years left unused, was finally remodeled and furnished for Sunday School and social purposes. On June 24, 1951, the newly built belltower and the Schulmerich carillonic bell system were installed and dedicated. In 1954, the interior of the church was completely renovated and remodeled, new hardwood floors laid, Communion Rail with kneeling cushions installed, choir stall enlarged, new carpet purchased, cathedral lighting system installed, etc. The chancel area was attractively remodeled with a wood veneering, new altar and pulpit installed to match the panel design.

The young women of the church were organized as "The Agnes I. Schade Circle," in memory of their former teacher. The men were organized into a Brotherhood. A Children's Choir was organized a few years ago. St. Peter's Church has kept in step with the times. Modern and up-to-date equipments are provided for educational purposes, including a large filmstrip and slide library as well as a new Bell & Howell 16 mm sound projector.

In 1954 the congregation was received into full membership of Synod. All services are now conducted in the English language only. Plans are now under way for the proper observance of its 125th anniversary.

The following pastors have served St. Peter's; E. F. Winter, 1835-1859; Frederick Zimmermann, 1859-1861; J. C. Yehle, 1861-1862; J. O. Zwicker, 1862-1864; Carl Jaeckel, 1865-1867; E. F. Giese, 1867-1868; C. J. Steinbach, 1868-1870; Peter Born, 1870-1876; M. F. Dethlefs (supply), 1876-1877; Michael Orendt (free-lance), 1901-1902; Paul Kummer, 1902-1905; Robert Barner, 1905-1925; Hans O. F. Simoleit, D. D., 1925 —.

Monessen St. Paul's 1903

MONESSEN, noted for its steel industries, is one of the busiest cities of the Monongahela Valley. When the town was first established, it was canvassed by Dr. C. B. King, but conditions were not yet favorable to the organization of a church.

In 1903 the Rev. H. M. Leech, Pastor of the Lutheran Church at Charleroi, assisted by Mr. D. I. Seifert, made a canvass of Monessen and found 40 Lutheran families without a church home. On Sunday, May 10, 1903, the first service of public worship was held in Kelly's Hall, the Rev. H. M. Leech preaching the sermon.

The work of W. M. Hackenberg, a student of Theology at Wittenberg College, in the summer of 1903 made it possible for Dr. A. J. Turkle to organize St. Paul's Church August 31, 1903.

The mission met all tests of opposition and welcomed the Rev. M. M. Allbeck as the first regular Pastor, March 1, 1904. Two lots, upon which the present church now stands, were purchased for $2,900 on November 10, 1904, and the entire amount was raised by the mission in less than two years. The Rev. M. M. Allbeck resigned after serving the congregation for a period of four years and seven months. On December 1, 1908 the Rev. F. J. Howard became Pastor. During his ministry plans were adopted for the church building, and the work progressed rapidly. The cornerstone was laid by Dr. J. E. Bittle May 29, 1910. The mission was vacant at the time, but the completed church was dedicated by Pastor G. H. Eveler January 29, 1911. The church was built of buff brick, Romanesque in style at a cost of $15,508. A debt of $7,342 was thus incurred, which was fully paid in 1921.

During Dr. Keller's pastorate the parsonage on McKee Avenue was purchased by the Ladies Aid Society. St. Paul's became self-supporting on May 1, 1921 during the Rev. Paul A. Weidley's pastorate. The Rev. Roy J. Meyer accepted a call on April 1, 1923. At this time a new lighting system was installed and carpet placed in the auditorium. The pastor's robe, donated by The King's Daughters Class, was introduced on Reformation Sunday, 1924. A new Sunday School building was added to the rear of the church for educational purposes, and a new heating system installed at a cost of $5,500. The new Sunday School building was dedicated November, 1925.

On Sunday, January 4, 1931, a new Moller Pipe Organ was dedicated by the Rev. Henry A. Bagger, President of the Pittsburgh Synod. The members of the disbanded St. Paul's Italian Lutheran Church were received into St. Paul's English Lutheran Church in 1933.

In keeping with the advancement in religious education the church, in 1935, adopted a graded form of worship. This new type of Sunday worship enables the entire family to come and go together, and at the same time provides a more comprehensive and interesting educational program for the congregation. In 1936 the church was completely redecorated. Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, in 1941 delivered the sermon in observance by the congregation of the liquidation of its entire indebtedness. Now that all debts have been cleared away the congregation is ready to embark on new phases of its work.

The Rev. Calvin Humbert became Pastor August 13, 1946. The wooden floor of the basement was replaced with a concrete floor over which was laid asphalt

tile, a new basement entrance was added and the new church basement was partitioned into three departments at an approximate cost of $5,000.

In March of 1952 the church council approved plans for an outdoor chapel at Lutherlyn, to be built as a memorial to the boys of St. Paul's congregation who gave their lives in World War II. We have contributed $3,500 to this memorial which represents about half of the total cost. Pastor Jordan with the Rev. R. F. Steininger, Ph. D., participated in the dedication ceremonies in June, 1952.

The Rev. Alva A. Jordan began his ministry in St. Paul's in June, 1952. He was ordained in an impressive service, the only ordination to take place in St. Paul's in the first fifty years of its history on June 6, 1952.

Twelve lots have been purchased at Grand Boulevard and Watkins Avenue for the future construction of a new church.

During the first fifty-two years St. Paul's has given a good account of its stewardship, increasing in numbers from the small handful of charter members, to become the strongest Protestant congregation in Monessen. At present there are 403 members in good standing, under the leadership and spiritual guidance of the Rev. Paul J. Trout, our present Pastor. The people of St. Paul's are making plans to provide for the future physical growth of the congregation, and the deepening of its spiritual life.

Pastors who have served here: M. M. Allbeck, 1904-1908; F. J. Howard, 1908-1910; G. H. Eveler, 1910-1913; C. E. Keller, D. D., 1914-1918; J. E. Dietterich, D. D., (Supply), 1918-1919; Paul A. Weidley, 1919-1923; Roy J Meyer, 1923-1925; Oscar W. Carlson, 1926-1929; William M. Schwartz, 1930-1934; R. F. Steininger, Ph. D., 1936-1946; Calvin E. Humbert, 1946-1951; Alva A. Jordan, 1952-1955; Paul J. Trout, 1955 —.

Monongahela Grace 1869

MONONGAHELA has been a center of Lutheran labors for many years, but the establishment of the present congregation belongs to comparatively recent history. Pastor J. H. Brown of the Washington-Fayette parish lived here for three years but made no attempt to organize a congregation. Pastor George St. Clair Hussey organized a congregation here in 1841 but it soon disbanded. On February 7, 1869 thirteen persons united to form the "First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Monongahela City." This organization was effected in an old Methodist Church, located at the corner of Third and Chess Streets, which had been purchasd by Lewis Staib, a member of the congregation and presented to the Lutherans. It is not clear who organized the congregation. The first pastor was Rev. D. L. Ryder, but he did not take charge until after the organization. He served until 1872 when he was succeeded by Rev. H. H. Hall who remained until 1877.

Rev. Hall, in speaking of his five years as pastor, said that the Sunday School had grown and the Church membership trebled. However, Mr. Staib had some financial troubles and as he had not yet given a deed for the property to the congregation, it was taken as part of his assets. The Church Board was unable to assist and Rev. Hall had to abandon the field. At a meeting of the Pittsburgh Synod in 1877 the church was referred to the Southern Conference for supply ministers.

Thus it continued until March 1, 1880, when the Rev. H. B. Winton became the regular supply until March 1, 1883, when the Rev. J. W. Breitenbach became

the pastor. The church now began to grow again. Mr. Staib, having recovered from his financial reverses, bought the Primitive Methodist Church in the First Ward and deeded it to the congregation on June 26, 1884.

At a meeting on December 9, 1884, the name was changed to "Grace English Evangelical Lutheran Church" and under this name was chartered January 17, 1885. Rev. Breitenbach served until August 1, 1887, when he accepted a call to Freeport, Pa. The congregation now numbered 74 and the Sunday School 200 but no successor could be secured and the work languished and the congregation disbanded. For fifteen years the congregation was dormant. The Trustees retained control of the church property and rented it to other denominations.

In March 1902, the Rev. J. S. McDowell, Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, visited Monogahela and took steps to reorganize the congregation. Levi P. Young, a theological student at Susquehanna University, was sent here for the Summer. As a result of his labors, the congregation was reorganized August 4, 1902 with 33 members, of whom two are still members of the congregation, (Mrs. Thomas Craig and Mrs. G. H. Pieper). In 1904 the old church property was sold and work was begun on the new church which was dedicated March 5, 1905. The second story was completed and dedicated May 31, 1908.

During the pastorate of M. M. Allbeck the parsonage was purchased and the church enlarged and rededicated December 6, 1914. The congregation became self-supporting October 1, 1913.

In February, 1923 the mortgage was burned by G. L. Bayha, the last surviving member of the first congregation.

In 1925 a pipe organ was installed and a set of tubular chimes for it was presented by Mrs. Caroline Ostermier.

The church was without a pastor until June, 1931 when Rev. A. U. Gesler took up the work. A new heating plant was installed in 1936 and during the same year the pastor and choir began to wear robes.

During the pastorate of Paul L. Schmiedel vases were presented for the altar, the two lots adjacent to the church purchased, the kitchen moved to the first floor, a choir room installed, floor refinished, new lighting fixtures installed and a carpet for the sanctuary was presented by Mrs. Margaret Thompson. John H. Staib, the last surviving member of the 1883 congregation, died May 1, 1948.

The Rev. J. Allen Snyder became pastor on May 1, 1949 until September 1, 1952. A missal stand, set of stoles, white cottas for the choir, and a light for the chancel were presented to the church. The silver communion set which had been given to the old congregation by Lewis Staib was taken out of storage and refinished making a very beautiful set. Extensive alterations were made to the church and parsonage, a new heating plant installed, a garage built and many other improvements made. Rededicatory services were held November 11, 1951.

The Rev. Chester S. Bird, the present pastor, assumed the pastorate on January 1, 1953. The congregation is growing and much progress is being made. In 1953 the organ was rebuilt at a cost of $4000. A set of brass offering plates were presented to the congregation, a beautiful credence bracket built. An oak reredos was installed in 1956 which adds greatly to the appearance of the chancel.

As of April, 1956 the membership is: Baptized 584, Confirmed 453, Communing 323. The Sunday School enrollment is 204. The Church property is valued at $75,000 with less than $5,000 debt.

Four sons of the congregation have entered the Lutheran Ministry: Dr. Willard D. Allbeck, Hamma Divinity School, Springfield, Ohio; Rev. Joseph W. Dean, Nipponose Valley Parish, Jersey Shore, Pa.; Rev. Linn Barber, Lancaster, Wisconsin; Rev. William Schwirian, deceased.

The Church has the following active auxiliaries: The Sunday School, The Luther League, the Brotherhood, Three Women's Missionary Societies, The Ladies Aid Society, and The Cotta Society.

The pastorates were: D. L. Ryder, 1869-1872; H. H. Hall, 1872-1877; Supplies, 1877-1883; J. W. Breitenbach, 1883-1887; dormant, 1887-1902; L. P. Young (Student Supply), 1902; H. E. Berkey, 1903-1908; M. M. Allbeck, 1908-1919; P. M. Kinports, 1919-1924; D. K. Fetterly, 1925-1930; A. U. Gesler, 1931-1938; J. R. Beamer, 1938-1945; P. L. Schmiedel, 1945-1949; J. Allen Snyder, 1949-1952; Chester S. Bird, 1953 —.

Monroeville The Good Shepherd 1955

(See Plate 28)

IN January, 1954 an area survey, conducted by Rev. John T. Braughler, under the sponsorship of the Synodical Board of American Missions, determined the need for a Lutheran Church in the Monroeville Area. Services were initiated on the parsonage lawn in August, 1954, continuing until October at which time they were transferred to Van Horne's Funeral Home. Sunday School was started in the parsonage and in the home of one of the members. Ground was broken for a large House Chapel on February 6, 1955, and completed in May of the same year. The congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was organized March 6, 1955 in the Alpha Lutheran Church in Turtle Creek, Pa. John T. Braughler was installed as the congregation's first pastor.

In January, 1956 a Building Committee was organized to plan for a new church building to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding congregation. The members of this committee became chairmen of more specialized committees designed to study the congregation's problems, to formulate and submit ideas to the architect, T. Norman Mansell. Ground breaking took place in 1957.

The charter membership of Good Shepherd was 200, the largest charter membership in the history of the Pittsburgh Synod. At the end of the first year three Sunday morning worship services have been established. In 1957 another was added. The Adult Sunday School has had to be temporarily discontinued as two children's Sunday Schools have been set up and continue to grow.

The future of Good Shepherd Church looks bright. The area is growing rapidly and the population is estimated to reach 60,000 by 1960. Certainly many of these new people will be Lutherans and will write a glowing history for Lutheranism in Monroeville. In 1958 a new church building was under construction.

Monroeville Rose Crest 1942

IN 1915 the Rose Crest Community Sunday School Association was organized and services were held in the various homes of members. By 1929 the Association had grown so rapidly that land was purchased and a small building was constructed by the men of the group. The Rose Crest Sunday School continued to grow and to teach and to hear the Word of God brought to them at Sunday evening services by various ministers, but the spiritual program was incomplete without the administration of the Sacraments and the other benefits of an organized church.

After considering various Protestant denominations, the Sunday School Association was organized as the Rose Crest Evangelical Lutheran Church by Dr. Mullen, the Superintendent of Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod, on Easter Day, April 5, 1942, with fifty-five charter members. The growth of the congregation necessitated the building of a new church the following year. Ground was broken in September 1943, and the men of the congregation constructed the new church utilizing the old building and the building of the McDonald Lutheran Church, which had been given when that congregation had disbanded. That building was dismantled and brought to Rose Crest, a distance of 35 miles. Today we have what had been dreamed in this community for years — a church in which children might be taught, the Sacraments administered, the true Word of God preached, and Christian fellowship developed.

The following pastors have served the congregation: David C. Burnite, 1942-1945; Alan K. Martin, 1945-1946; Paul J. Mumford, 1946-1949; Joseph Arnold (supply), 1949-1951; John Earl Reed, 1951-1955; Edwin T. Cochran, Jr., 1956 —.

Mt. Pleasant St. John's 1793

ST. JOHN'S is located on the Latrobe road about two miles north of Mt. Pleasant, and is commonly known as one of the Middle Churches. In early days it was called Kintig's, probably because services were held in the barn of Daniel Kintig, a prominent member of the Reformed part of the congregation.

The church land was donated by four men whose farms joined at this point: Daniel Kintig, Henry Fisher, Andrew Smail, and John Deeds. Each man donated half an acre. The deed of transfer was not made until November 13, 1813, but the land was used for the purposes named probably thirty years before that time. Many graves of the pioneers are unmarked, but some are known to be older than 1800.

The first building erected on this land was a log schoolhouse, which was used on Sundays for worship. It stood a short distance east of the present church, and was used for many years after the building of a better church, first as a schoolhouse and then as a janitor's residence.

When Pastor J. W. Weber took charge of the Reformed congregations of Westmoreland in 1782, he began at once to preach in this neighborhood, and it is generally believed that he organized the congregation in the following year. If so, it was a union church of Reformed and Lutherans, for such was the custom of the time. Rev. W. F. Ulery is authority for the statement that the church was organized by Pastor J. M. Steck January 3, 1793, and from that time on was one of his regular appointments. This does not, however, preclude the possibility that Pastor Anton Ulrich Luetge may have supplied the people alternately with Pastor Weber of the Reformed from 1782 to 1789.

Some German families were known to have settled in this community before 1774, so that it may be classed among the oldest of the German settlements of Westmoreland. The Scotch-Irish were a few years ahead of the Germans, and the neighboring Presbyterian Church has continuous records from 1776.

The log schoolhouse served as a place of worship until 1827, when a brick church was built for $2,000. Rev. Jonas Mechling was then pastor and the churches of his parish, as reported to the Ohio Synod of that year, were: "Kintig's, Henke's, Jacob's, Schwab's, Salem's, Hoffman's, Brandt's, and Donegal's."

The third church was dedicated by Pastor I. O. P. Baker in 1861. The cost was $3,500. This building was destroyed by fire October 30, 1909, and there was some hesitancy about rebuilding. The cornerstone of a new church was finally laid by Pastor Michael on June 26, 1910; the building was dedicated October 8, 1911. During the pastorate of Rev. Jonathan Sarver the church was transferred from the Ohio Synod to the Pittsburgh Synod.

Membership of this church has never been large. In the 1920's losses to the city churches were great. Frequent changes in pastorates made any progress difficult. However, through the years, St. John's has been able to get a pastor.

About 1950 there was a noticeable increase in membership in the church school. It became necessary to provide additional room to take care of this increase. In 1954 the church was pointed, a gift by one of the families of St. John's Union Church representing membership in both churches. A new educational unit was also begun in 1954 and finished in 1955. On February 13, 1955 a service of dedication for a Baldwin electronic organ was held. The organ was a gift of a member of the Lutheran congregation. During the summer of 1957 the church school made possible the redecoration of the interior of the church. Communing membership in 1957 was sixty six.

Pastors who have served St. John's are: J. M. Steck, 1793-1822; Jonas Mechling, 1822-1855; I. O. P. Baker, 1855-1862; G. W. Busby, 1863-1869; Enoch Smith, 1869-1873; S. L. Harkey, D. D., 1873-1882; Jonathan Sarver, 1883-1886; J. R. Groff, 1888-1891; C. L. Holloway, 1891-1896; Herbert Martens, 1897-1900; W. R. Swickard 1901-1905; R. L. Leatherman, 1905-1916; Supplies, 1916-1919; G. L. Himmelman, 1919-1922; J. F. Flegler, 1922-1923; A. W. Trumpeter, 1923-1930; L. J. Kaufman, 1930-1935; George Booth, 1935-1938; George Wolfe, 1939-1942; W. A. Zundel (temporary assignment), 1942-1943; R. L. McCullough, 1944-1953; Thomas W. Baker, 1954 —.

Mt. Pleasant Trinity 1882

NO attempt was made to organize a church in Mt. Pleasant until 1882. Services were begun by Rev. Enoch Smith in 1869 when he was pastor of neighboring churches, then in connection with the Ohio Synod. Dr. S. L. Harkey succeeded Rev. Smith. In 1882, shortly before Dr. Harkey's resignation, Trinity was organized. This was on January 12, 1882.

Rev. Jonathan Sarver became pastor of Mt. Pleasant parish in March, 1883, and brought the three congregations — Trinity, Zion, and St. John's — into the Pittsburgh Synod in 1885. Pastor Sarver gathered a building fund of $3,000, and began the work of building a church. The cornerstone was laid August 1, 1884 and the church was dedicated by Dr. Sarver and Dr. Passavant March 1, 1885. It was a Gothic brick structure costing, with the lot, about $7,000.

One of the chief hindrances to the early development of the church was its connection with two large rural churches, making it impossible for the pastor to give the same amount of service enjoyed by other churches of the town. This condition was not remedied until 1918, when Trinity was made a separate parish. Missionary aid was given for two years, after which the congregation became self-supporting with 148 members. In 1923 St. John's was once more taken into the parish.

Extensive improvements were made to the church in 1914 at a cost of $3,000. A service of rededication was held by Pastor Leatherman on November 22, 1914. During the pastorate of Albert W. Trumpeter the church was given another renovation.

Trinity has grown through the years so that it soon became larger than the older congregation, St. John's, with which it is connected in the parish. Membership in 1957 at Trinity was 521 baptized and 231 communing.

The following pastors have served this church since its organization: S. L. Harkey, D. D., 1882; Jonathan Sarver, D. D., 1883-1886; J. R. Groff, 1886-1891; C. L. Holloway, 1891-1896; Herbert Martens, 1897-1900; W. R. Swickard, 1901-1905; R. L. Leatherman, 1905-1922; A. W. Trumpeter, 1923-1930; L. J. Kaufman, 1930-1935; George Booth, 1935-1938; George Wolfe, 1939-1942; W. A. Zundel (temporary assignment), 1942-1943; R. L. McCullough, 1944-1953; Thomas W. Baker 1954 —.

Murrysville Christ 1796

THE Hankey settlement, as this community was called in the early days, was one of the older German settlements of northern Westmoreland. As early as 1784 a number of Reformed and Lutheran families had settled here. in whose homes Pastor John M. Steck preached and administered the sacrament about once a year. The devoted people were willing to send their children all the way to Brush Creek for catechetical instruction, and this sound teaching saved the life of the organization.

In 1815, as the number of confirmed members increased, a move was made to build a church. The families were so scattered that it was hard to decide on a location. Daniel Hankey and Mr. Beemer each offered a site, and the outcome was the erection of a log church at both places. The dedication of these two churches took place in 1817. The records seem to indicate that the first Lutheran communion in the Hankey church was conducted by Pastor Steck June 11, 1820. Some consider this also the date of the dedication. The deed was not executed until March 6, 1822, when the land, consisting of three acres, was conveyed to the "Trustees of the German Lutheran and the German Presbyterian Churches." (The name Presbyterian was frequently applied to the Reformed.)

Pastor Jonas Mechling took charge of the congregation in 1820, administering the sacrament to twenty persons in November of that year. At that time the Reformed had twice as many communing members as the Lutherans. This pastorate continued until 1839, after which Pastor Jacob Hoelsche gave occasional supplies for about a year. From 1843 to 1849 Pastor Jacob Zimmerman preached once a month in German. From 1849-1855 he gave only a few services.

Pastor L. M. Kuhns took over the congregation in 1856. He found everything about the old log church in a dilapidated condition, but his English preaching was so

attractive that he was able to effect a reorganization of the congregation April 24, 1857. Pastor Kuhns was a tireless worker and deserved the success achieved. Compelled to endure not a little hardship in meeting his appointments, his devotion established him in the affection of the people, so that he was able to succeed where others had failed.

After his resignation Apirl 1, 1859, a new parish was formed of Christ and Bethesda, with Tarentum as a mission point. This parish was served by A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1859-1861, during which the second church was built. This was also a union church and was dedicated by Rev. Samuel F. Breckenridge October 16, 1866. A separation was effected from the Reformed March 24, 1873, when the Lutherans paid them $300 to relinquish all claim to the property. With the help of Bethesda, a parsonage was built on the church ground at a cost of $2,700 in 1891. After a renovation at a cost of $1,250 the church was rededicated by Pastor J. E. Lerch December 22, 1901.

During the pastorate of H. H. Flick the chancel was remodeled and a memorial altar installed. In the 1920's the congregation suffered heavy losses by reason of death and removal, but a devoted body of people still carried on. Bethesda and Christ became separate congregations February, 1941.

Until 1952 the church consisted of one room heated by a coal stove. However, in that year a building program was introduced. A basement was added with a modern oil furnace. The entire church was renovated. This church which for 150 years was nothing but a one room preaching point on Sundays is now an active congregation with an active program.

The following ministers have served this church: J. M. Steck, 1796-1820; Jonas Mechling, 1820-1839; Jacob Hoelsche, 1839-1840; Jacob Zimmerman, 1843-1855; C. H. Hersh (supply), 1855-1856; L. M. Kuhns, 1856-1859; A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1859-1861; P. G. Bell, 1862-1864; D. M. Kemerer (supply), 1864-1865; S. F. Breckenridge, 1865-1869; Michael Colver, 1869-1876; O. F. Harshman, 1876-1879; D. R. P. Barry, 1880-1881; M. G. Earhart, 1881-1886; J. K. Hilty, 1886-1890; Carl Zinssmeister, 1890-1892; Alexander MacLaughlin, 1892-1897; C. E. Smith, 1897-1898; J. E. Lerch, 1899-1903; J. M. Stover, 1904-1909; H. H. Flick, 1910-1917; Oscar Woods, 1917-1921; H. A. Seel, 1922-1924; Paul J. Tau, 1924-1933; Albert Speck, 1933-1936; T. H. Althof, 1936-1941; M. J. Roth, 1941-1943; Oscar Woods, 1943-1952; Alan K. Martin, 1952-1956; F. H. Miller, 1957 —.

Natrona St. John's 1872

THIS congregation was organized in the school building by the Rev. M. F. Dethlefs April 14, 1872. The church began its work under bright skies, and prospered during the two years in which Pastor Dethlefs served them. After ill health led to his resignation, he was succeeded by four "free preachers", whose work yielded no fruitage to the church or community.

The Pittsburgh Synod gained access to the congregation in 1879, and it was then associated with the German Church of Freeport in a new mission parish. The first missionary under the new order was Rev. C. F. Tiemann, who began his work immediately after ordination. This meant the dawn of a new day for St. John's Church, and the following statement is found in the report of the missionary superintendent of the Synod in 1880: "The brethren at Natrona have organized and adopted a constitution and form of charter for the congregation, and expect to be received into synodical connection at this meeting".

The cornerstone of a new church was laid by Pastor Tiemann September 19, 1880, and the church dedicated March 27, 1881. This church was a substantial brick edifice, 32 x 50, and met the needs of the growing congregation for a number of years. At the time of the dedication, the church reported 60 communing members. Pastor Tiemann resigned in May, 1883, and was succeeded in July of the same year by Pastor John George Amschler, who served them throughout his entire ministerial life. His first task was the establishment of a parochial school, which was a source of great strength to the church. This school was at first held in the public school building, then in the parsonage, for a short time in a stable, then in 1890 a small frame schoolhouse was built on the rear of the church lot.

After 23 years of service this school building was replaced by the present parish house, a two-story brick building. The devoted pastor taught in this parochial school for thirty five years, when his health failed and he was compelled to give it up. In 1898, an addition was built to the church, and a new altar, pulpit, pipe organ and heating system were installed. The first parsonage was sold in 1903, and a new home erected for the pastor at 25 Sycamore street. The entire church was remodeled and a second addition built at a cost of $25,000 in 1920, and rededicated by Pastor Amschler to the service of Christ.

In 1929 the Rev. Ludwig Beisecker came to St. John's. During the depression years the task of maintaining two buildings kept the congregation at a standstill. In 1936 the Rev. C. Frederick Frank became the pastor and served the congregation well, having both English and German services regularly, until the time of his death January 5, 1947. Pastor Frank's death came shortly after the congregation had joined him is celebrating his 25th anniversary in the ministry.

In May of 1947 the Rev. L. Paul Mueller came to St. John's as pastor. Pastor Mueller was the first pastor of the congregation to conduct all services in English. But soon disaster struck. In October, 1947, an old frame building adjacent to the church caught fire. The fire rapidly spread to the church causing untold damage. In the year that followed, the congregation was forced to worship in the church basement while repairs were made. Finally in February, 1949, the church, newly remodeled with carpet, lighting fixtures, and newly arranged chancel was rededicated.

Following the second world war, the community of Natrona changed rapidly. The people, long residents of the town, began to move away, primarily to the Heights overlooking Natrona. Natrona soon was to be a Catholic stronghold. Many members of St. John's transferred their membership to other Lutheran and Protestant congregations. In 1948 the parsonage was sold, and a new one purchased at 1009 Dallas Avenue, Natrona Heights. Pastor Mueller served the congregation until August, 1952. In June of 1953, the Rev. John H. Schneidmiller, newly ordained by the Pittsburgh Synod, became the pastor. The old Spirit and consecration of the people once more came to the fore. The communing membership climbed near the old figure of 200. Extensive repairs totaling $4,000 were done in the Parish House, although untouched by the fire, had fallen into disrepair. St. John's now possesses a fine plant, with a communing membership of 186, and well organized auxiliaries. All services are held in the English language.

The pastors have served in the following order: M. F. Dethlefs, 1872-1874; Free pastors, 1874-1879; C. F. Tiemann, 1880-1883; George Amschler, 1883-1925; Carl Storek, 1926-1928; Ludwig Beisecker, 1929-1936; C. Frederick Frank, 1936-1947; L. Paul Mueller, 1947-1952; John H. Schneidmiller, 1953-1957; F. C. Greininger, 1957 —.

Natrona Heights Calvary 1926

VERY early in the development of this beautiful residential district the Lutheran Church began to care for its people. The late Rev. John W. Myers of St. Peter's Church, Natrona, began services on the heights. The women banded together in order to secure a lot on which to build a chapel. Under the guidance of Pastor Adam Boerstler a canvass of the territory was made and the Board authorized the organization of a mission.

On January 17, 1926 Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, with 61 members, was organized. On the day of organization 95 attended Sunday School and 101 the organization service. A complete organization was effected. A constitution was adopted, church council elected and installed, and the authorization secured to apply for a charter to the Courts of Allegheny County. This charter granted, Pastor Adam Boerstler was called as pastor to the new congregation. An arrangement was made whereby the new congregation would remain part of St. Peter's Parish. This relationship continued until June 18, 1929, when St. Peter's Church, Natrona, and Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Natrona Heights, were legally merged into one congregation located in Natrona Heights.

The rapidly growing community soon made the little chapel very inadequate, so steps were taken to build a new church. A lot was secured on the corner of Montana and Carlisle Streets, but this lot was sold. Another was purchased on the new Broadview Boulevard. The contract was given and construction of a new stone church began. The complete cost, as it stood on the day of dedication, September 8, 1929, was about $70,000.00.

From the time of organization to the present, Calvary Church has grown from 61 members to 564 Communing members. Realizing a continued growth in membership, the congregation took action four years ago to expand its present facilities. At the annual congregational meeting held in January of 1954, the congregation gave the authority to the church council to have plans drawn up for expansion of the present building in conformity with the present structure.

The preliminary plans for the new structure were accepted by the Building Committee. The congregation accepted the plans in January of 1956. With the acceptance of the architect's plans, a financial drive was held. Final plans were accepted by the Building Committee and Council in 1957.

Ground was broken for the $250,000 addition to Calvary Church on Sunday, September 1, 1957. It is with pride that the members look forward to completion of their Church. Calvary is one of the most beautiful Churches in Western Pennsylvania.

The pastors who have served Calvary are: Adam Boerstler, 1926-1931; Mead A. Rugh, 1931-1935; Wilbert T. Wilson, 1936-1949; G. Warren Rigg, Jr., 1950 —.

New Brighton Trinity 1888

(See Plate 29)

LUTHERANISM, as a congregational unit, was brought to New Brighton by the Rev. J. W. Myers in the fall of the year 1887. In the month of December 1887, Rev. Myers, then pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Rochester, made a canvass of New Brighton, found a few Lutheran families, and held four services during the month of December. A note found in the first parish record states that the Rev. J. W. Myers organized Trinity Lutheran Church, January 8, 1888, rented a hall and supplied the congregation until June, 1888. The hall referred to was the Autenreith hall on Third Avenue, where services were held regularly until the first church building was erected. The charter was drawn up and adopted on January 29, 1888.

The Rev. John Howe Delo was the first pastor of Trinity Church. He served the congregation from June, 1888 until October, 1890. He was a graduate of Mt. Airy Seminary in Philadelphia, was ordained by the Pittsburgh Synod on June 3, 1888 and installed as pastor of Trinity on June 24. Pastor Delo served both Christ Church in Beaver Falls and Trinity, New Brighton, until resigning in 1891 and shortly thereafter died of typhoid fever.

The pastor longest connected with this parish was Rev. F. W. Kohler, whose first pastorate was from November 1, 1890 to September 30, 1900, and his second from April 1, 1907 to July 31, 1922, the two covering a period of more than twenty five years.

A lot on the corner of Seventh and Apple Streets, now Tenth Avenue and Tenth Street, was bought from Mrs. Townsend in 1891 for the sum of $1020. The cornerstone of the church was laid December 27, 1891, and the building dedicated by Pastor Kohler, June 26, 1892. It was a frame structure, 36 x 38, and cost $4,000. It was enlarged in 1908, when a two manual pipe organ was installed. A second addition to the building was made in 1914. In 1901 a lot with a frame house was bought from Mrs. Kaiser. Six feet of ground, running from Tenth to Eleventh Avenue, was secured from Mrs. Mary Brown. A small storeroom beside the church was bought and converted into a Sunday School annex. In 1915 the house and lot at 1006 Tenth Street was bought; in 1922 the Thomas house was purchased. In the acquiring of all this real estate the Ladies' Aid had a large part — this in anticipation of the day when a modern church building would be erected.

In 1923 a parsonage located on Seventh Avenue and Sixth Street was purchased for $10,500. This was sold in 1948 for $12,000 and the present parsonage at 604 Penn Avenue was purchased for the same amount. The present parish building, which has served as a church since its erection, was dedicated September 7, 1930 at a cost of approximately $57,000. The original church building was razed in 1931.

During all these years there has been a steady increase in the membership and 600 confirmed members were reported by Pastor James N. Frank in April, 1956.

Several successful capital fund campaigns for the purpose of a new church building resulted in ground breaking ceremonies in the summer of 1956. The new church was dedicated September, 1957.

The pastors were: J. W. Myers, 1888; J. H. Delo, 1888-1890; F. W. Kohler, 1890-1900; G. W. Critchlow, 1901-1907; F. W. Kohler (second term), 1907-1922; J. F. Bermon, 1923-1942; W. H. Marburger, 1943-1948; James N. Frank, 1949 —.

New Castle Bethany 1904

IN 1904 the Rev. Levi P. Young, at the request of many General Synod Lutherans, made a canvass of New Castle and discovered that there were many families that wanted a church established there. The first service was held August 7, 1904 and the Sunday School was organized, September 4, 1904 with Edward Ray serving as the first superintendent. Bethany church was organized by Rev. Samuel T. Nicholas in the Odd Fellows Hall, South New Castle December 4, 1904.

Services were held in the Welsh Church on Mill Street during the summer of 1905. After the resignation of Pastor Young, July, 1906, it was decided to relocate the mission on the hill. The lot on the corner of East Washington and Lutton streets was bought for $1,800 on April 7, 1908. The cornerstone was laid August 9, 1908, and the church dedicated by Pastor C. G. Leatherman November 1, 1908. It was a small brick building 35 x 50 with the simplest of furnishing, and cost $4,300. In 1910 pews were secured from the First Church of Sharpsburg at a small cost. These added much to the comfort of the congregation.

During the pastorate of H. E. Harman, 1912-1916, a fine parsonage was erected at a cost of $2,800, the greater part of the work being done by the pastor and members of the congregation. During the pastorate of Rev. W. R. Samuel, October 1, 1919, the parish became self-supporting. Practically all the debt was paid in 1922, when the church enrolled 205. For some time after 1920 the Jerusalem church of Princeton was connected with the parish. However, this was discontinued.

In 1941 the interior of the church was entirely re-arranged. The chancel was changed so as to become parallel with East Washington Street. Through the years membership was lost. In 1956 the total membership stood at 184 with only 82 communing. In October, 1956 a mortgage of $7,000 was secured from the Lawrence Savings and Trust Company for the remodeling of the parsonage which was made into two apartments for income purpose. At this time a resident pastor was no longer provided. Rev. Theodore C. Scheifle, Professor of Sociology at Thiel College, supplied the pulpit and took care of the pastoral needs of the congregation.

The new church was dedicated September, 1957.

Pastors who have served this church are: L. P. Young, 1904-1906; C. G. Leatherman, 1906-1911; H. E. Harman, 1912-1916; R. L. Smith, 1917-1919; W. R. Samuel, 1919-1922; W. A. Zundel, 1922-1924; C. O. Frank, 1924-1927; Oscar Woods, 1927-1932; Paul J. Tau, 1933-1942; L. G. Golder, 1942-1946; T. W. Baker, 1947-1949; P. E. Walthour, 1950-1951; A. H. Blank, 1952-1956; T. C. Scheifele, 1956 —.

New Castle St. John's 1895

(See Plate 8)

BETWEEN 1850 and 1895 many attempts were made to establish an English Lutheran Church in New Castle. Success was finally achieved by Pastor Nathanael Scheffer of St. John's, Mercer County, who, having found an encouraging number of prospects, announced that a service would be held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall Sunday June 23, 1895. Eleven persons attended and Pastor Scheffer announced regular services every two weeks. A choir was organized and led the chief service for the first time on September 15, 1895. A constitution was adopted, October 13, 1895, when St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized with 26 members.

The congregation was admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod in 1896, and acquired its legal charter on June 8, 1897. Pastor Scheffer preached his final sermon on May 24, 1896. His successor was The Rev. Joshua H. Miller, Ph. D., who began his ministry June 17, 1896. During Dr. Miller's 22 year pastorate the congregation grew from a small mission to a strong congregation. For the first seven years the congregation used the Y.M.C.A. Hall. On June 31, 1899, a church site was purchased at the corner of Falls and North Mill Streets for $4,500. On May 15, 1901 the Episcopalians gave St. John's their old church for this site and $3,000. This churchly place of worship on East North Street was rededicated by Pastor Miller on April 27, 1902.

The Rev. H. J. Behrens was pastor of St. John's from September 15, 1918 to December 1, 1921. During this time the congregation was further strengthened, and the parsonage on Winter Avenue was purchased for $6,000. The Rev. F. E. Stough became pastor March 1, 1922 and served until his death in 1941. A new building site on North Jefferson Street was purchased for $25,000 in 1924, but was later sold.

Almost from the beginning the congregation anticipated a new church building. Pastors and members alike worked to secure necessary funds. As the years passed and New Castle grew, it became increasingly evident that a Lutheran Church was needed in the north section of the city. Under the leadership of The Rev. Adam E. Simon, pastor February 1, 1942 to February 1, 1952, two lots were purchased at the corner of Highland and Fairfield Avenues for the purpose of building a church. Interest in a new church had been increasing during World War II as members expanded the building fund by the purchase of government savings bonds in the name of the congregation.

When the Rev. William E. Fruth became pastor of St. John's on July 1, 1952, there was a healthy interest in building a church. The church council was authorized, December 14, 1952, to engage an architect to draw plans for the proposed new church. Plans for a colonial church were approved April 19, 1953. Groundbreaking services were held August 16, 1953, and the new church was dedicated November 7, 1954 at a cost of approximately $150,000. On February 19, 1956, a new constitution was adopted. The new church is the fulfillment of the hopes and prayers of many generations of faithful Lutherans in New Castle. The expanded program made possible by more adequate facilities promises to make St. John's a strong congregation spiritually and numerically.

Pastors who served St. John's: Nathanael Scheffer, 1895-1896; Joshua H. Miller, Ph. D., 1896-1918; H. J. Behrens, 1918-1921; F. E. Stough, 1922-1941; A. E. Simon, 1942-1952; Wm. E. Fruth, 1952 —.

New Castle St. Paul's 1848

PASTOR Casper Braun, a missionary, was sent to New Castle to organize a congregation of recently arrived immigrants from Germany. Most of these had come from Wuertemberg in 1845. A congregation of 27 members was brought together August 28, 1848. "The First German Evangelical Lutheran Church and Congregation of New Castle, Pennsylvania" was the original title of this congregation.

The first church council was elected and organized October 8 and installed by Pastor Braun November 5, 1848. The first child was baptized October 12 and Holy Communion was first celebrated November 5, 1848. The beginnings of this mission church were difficult owing principally to the poverty of the settlers. Some of the families moved to nearby towns, and on December 23, 1849 Pastor Braun resigned in order to undertake missionary work in Texas. For two years the church was supplied by Gottlieb Bassler and Herman Mantz.

In 1851 H. C. Kaehler was secured as a regular pastor. Five to seven congregations were being served by Pastor Kaehler, when he began his work in New Castle. Shortly after, however, a new parish was formed consisting of New Castle, Wuertemberg and Jerusalem churches. Assisted by Pastors Bassler and Mantz, Pastor Kaehler laid the cornerstone of the first church building October, 1851. In 1866 a two-story brick parsonage was bought located on Crawford and Adam Streets. The one and one half acres of land that went with this purchase was later sold for $2,000. During these early years the churches of this parish varied. In 1870, when Carl Jaekel was pastor, the Corry church was a part of the parish. The membership in 1875 was 50; in 1897 it had increased to 100 communicants.

During the pastorate of Richard R. F. Boethelt, who came to New Castle in 1897, the present church edifice was erected, built by Andrew Dietterle, founder of the oldest lumber company in the city. The dedication service was held on April 9, 1899. T. B. Roth of Thiel College preached the English service while Ivan Dietrich preached in German. Up to this time most of the services had been conducted in German, but, owing to the establishment of St. John's by some of the former members of St. Paul's, the congregation began to recognize the necessity for English services, if the young people were to stay with the church. When C. Frederick Frank became pastor in 1907 English was introduced into all departments of the church. A second church parsonage was purchased at 249 W. Grant Street during the pastorate of Frederick Frank. This property, however, was later sold to F. Kuech for $2,500. In 1917 a third parsonage was purchased from Mrs. Mae Emery for $4,750. This property, located at 805 Emerson Avenue, left the church with a $3,000 indebtedness. Membership of the congregation in 1920 was 240 communicant members.

George F. Hegele of Pittsburgh became pastor of St. Paul's October 1, 1920. By 1923 the congregation had grown to 1065 baptized members, 550 confirmed and 350 communing. Dissension, however, had grown up within the church. On February 15, 1925 Pastor Hegele resigned and took a large number of members with him to establish Christ, Missouri Lutheran Church on East Washington Street.

A. M. Stumpf came to New Castle May 1, 1925 and remained as pastor of St. Paul's until 1944. During his pastorate three sons of the congregation went into the ministry: Michael Goldner, now at St. Paul's, Alliance, Ohio; Walter Hempel, now at Our Saviour, Philadelphia, and John Stumpf, now serving in California. Additional property to the north of the parsonage at 305 Jefferson Avenue was purchased on October 25, 1925 at a cost of $13,500. The subsequent years of the

depression made the payment of the mortgage on this property very difficult. It was not until November 8, 1947 that the last of this mortgage would be paid.

The language question, which had always plagued the congregation, became again a real problem. Many of the best families in the church had left to join with other congregations. German services were discontinued after February 21, 1943. At the close of 1944 St. Paul's outlook was gloomy. The congregation was in arrears on paying the pastor's salary and only with great difficulty could it raise the $1560 that had to be paid yearly to the bank. Pastor Stumpf resigned at St. Paul's in 1944 to become chaplain of the Lutheran Service Society in Pittsburgh.

On May 13, 1945 O. J. Warnath, who had been pastor of All Saint's congregation in Philadelphia, started his pastorate in New Castle. Many difficulties had to be surmounted. People who had become discouraged had to be brought back into the active work of the church; finances had to be straightened out; and contributions increased. The mortgage already referred to had been reduced to $8,400, and a 17 year old note for $1,000 had to be taken care of. Repairs to the church building had to be made. By 1947 the congregation had not only taken care of all its old indebtedness, but was paying its full apportionment to synod.

In 1953 it was realized that the Sunday School, which had numbered only 65 in 1945, space would have to be increased. At the congregational meeting January, 1954 the congregation voted to build the first unit of its church project. Mr. Arthur Martsolf was chosen as architect. Architect plans for a $35,000 unit were submitted in 1955. The old parsonage at 301 Jefferson Avenue has been demolished. Construction on the new Parish Hall building began in the spring of 1956. The Parish Hall building will provide the basement for the new church building.

The pastors who served St. Paul's are: Casper Braun, 1848-1849; Gottlieb Bassler and Herman Mantz (supplies), 1849-1851; H. C. Kaehler, 1851-1856; William Strobel, 1857-1859; Frederick Zimmerman, 1859-1862; J. H. C. Schierenbeck, 1862-1867; Carl Jaeckel, 1867-1875; John Fritz, 1875-1880; Gustave Schultz, 1880-1884; C. J. Bohnen, 1885-1889; P. J. C. Glatzert, 1890-1897; R. R. F. Boethelt, 1897-1907; C. Frederick Frank, 1907-1915; W. C. Miller, 1915-1920; G. F. Hegele, 1920-1925; A. M. Stumpf, D. D., 1925-1944; O. J. Warnath, 1945 —.

New Florence — Grace — 1905

WHEN this congregation was organized it was on the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad between New Florence and Garfield. Now, however, Pennsylvania Railroad no longer stops. To reach New Florence on the East or Bolivar-Robinson on the West or Ligonier or any other community, one must climb a steep grade up a mountain and descend on the southern side.

Pastor S. A. Shaulis ministered to the spiritual needs of these people at Lockport, when he was serving the New Florence Parish. He organized a congregation in December of 1905. A small frame church, 32 x 44, was dedicated by Pastor Shaulis on October 6, 1907. The pastors of the New Florence Parish have served this congregation from the beginning.

A small Sunday School is still maintained, and a few new members have been received in recent years, but the church building is in poor repair. The future of the little band is by no means encouraging. In 1956 there were 17 communing members.

The pastors who have served this church in connection with the New Florence Parish are: S. A. Shaulis, 1905-1907; Henry Voegtley, 1908-1910; W. M. Spangler, 1910-1913; D. S. Weimer, 1913-1914; G. W. McSherry, 1915-1918; Student C. E. Held (supply), 1919-1922; Adam Boerstler, 1923-1925; G. G. Ruff, 1927-1938; Student Robert Wolf, 1940; F. C. H. Scholz, 1940-1943; David F. Flegler, 1944-1951; John B. Gardner, 1952-1956.

New Florence — St. John's — 1873

REV. G. N. Scharretts from Indiana preached occasionally to the families of this vicinity as early as 1830. They met in the Presbyterian Church of Centerville across the Conemaugh from New Florence. After Scharretts' death in 1836 they were occasionally supplied by Pastors John J. Suman, Peter Sahm, Augustus Babb, A. B. Bosserman, and Simon Snyder. For some reason the Presbyterian Church was closed against Dr. Sahm and services were held by him in the Culbert schoolhouse about two miles east of Centerville. When Pastor Simon P. Snyder of Brush Valley visited here he held services in the log church belonging to the United Brethern.

On July 19, 1873 Samuel Pershing and wife deeded to John Robb, Samuel Butler, and William Carnaham, acting trustees for the Evangelical Lutherans three lots in the town of New Florence for $350. The congregation itself was not organized until September 9, 1873 by Pastor Snyder.

The work of building the church was promptly begun. It was dedicated on December 1, 1873 while yet unfinished. It was a neat brick church, 35 x 45. This church was badly damaged by a storm in 1885 but was promptly repaired and dedicated January 24, 1886. Money was raised for the congregation by the Alleghany Synod through the efforts of Rev. Ehrenfeld.

On August 9, 1898 a lot near the church was purchased for $225 and a parsonage was erected at a cost of $1,800. In the summer of 1917 the church was renovated at a cost of $8,000. In 1914 the Advisory Board of Home Missions was compelled to aid the congregation in supporting a pastor.

The following pastors have served this church: Simon P. Snyder, 1873-1874; I. B. Crist, 1874-1875; B. W. Tomlinson, 1876-1879; A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1881-1882; Solomon McHenry, 1882-1884; F. H. Crissman, 1886-1889; J. K. Hilty, 1890-1891; F. S. Shultz, 1893-1897; S. A. Shaulis, 1898-1907; Henry Voegtley, 1908-1910; W. M. Spangler, 1910-1913; D. S. Weimer, 1913-1914; G. W. McSherry, 1915-1918; Student C. E. Held (supply), 1919-1922; Adam Boerstler, 1923-1925; G. G. Ruff, 1927-1939; Student Robert Wolf, 1940; F. C. H. Scholz, 1940-1943; David F. Flegler, 1944-1951; John B. Gardner, 1952-1956.

New Florence (Robinson) Zion 1822

THIS church was organized by Gabriel Adam Reichert in the summer of 1822 with a membership of ten families. The first services were held in an old schoolhouse. Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts succeeded Pastor Reichert, because he could provide the English which Pastor Reichert could not provide for the Indiana Church. The people were discouraged by the death of Pastor Scharretts in 1836 and were satisfied with supply preachers for the next 12 years. During these years many joined the Presbyterian church.

They were rescued by Dr. Peter Sahm who helped them to secure a lot from Peter Mikesell and build a church. This church was built of brick at a cost of $1,800 because so much of the labor was donated. It was dedicated by Dr. Sahm, March 10, 1850.

A new parish was formed in 1855, consisting of New Florence, New Derry, and Germany, and an appropriation of $50 was made by the Allegheny Synod toward the support of a pastor. In 1861 New Florence, Germany, Brush Valley and Strongstown were organized as a parish, but this arrangement was given up after a short trial. From 1892-1897 New Florence, Germany, and Morrellsville constituted the Morrellsville Parish of the Alleghany Synod. After the withdrawal of Morrellsville in 1897 the New Florence Parish of the Pittsburgh Synod was increased until it included New Florence, Germany, Garfield, and Lockport. The membership of the congregation has never been large.

On December 16, 1929 Zion merged with St. James of Robinson, but the name of Zion Lutheran Church was kept. In 1956 the communing membership was 58.

Pastors who have served this church are: G. A. Reichert, 1822-1826; N. G. Scharretts, 1827-1836; John Brown (supply), 1837; Jacob Medtart, 1838-1839; August Babb, D. D. (supply), 1839-1845; A. B. Bosserman (supply), 1848-1850; Peter Sahm, D. D., (supply), 1850-1852; G. M. Pile (supply), 1852; W. A. Kopp (supply), 1852-1853; J. J. Suman, 1853-1855; W. B. Bachtell, 1857; John Beaver, 1858-1860; L. J. Bell (supply), 1861; G. M. Steelemeyer, 1862-1866; G. F. Ehrenfeld (supply), 1866-1868; S. P. Snyder, 1869-1874; I. B. Crist, 1874-1875; B. W. Tomlinson, 1877-1879; A. C. Ehrenfeld (supply), 1881-1882; Solomon McHenry, 1882-1884; F. H. Crissman, 1886-1889; J. K. Hilty, 1890-1891; F. S. Shultz, 1893-1897; P. G. Bell (supply), 1897; S. A. Shaulis, 1898-1907; Henry Voegtley, 1908-1910; W. M. Spangler, 1910-1913; D. S. Weimer, 1913-1914; G. W. McSherry, 1915-1918; Student C. E. Held (supply), 1919-1921; Adam Boerstler, 1923-1925; Layman Frank Landis (supply), 1925-1926; Layman William Meyer, 1926-1927; George G. Ruff, 1927-1939; F. E. H. Scholz, 1940-1943; David F. Flegler, 1944-1951; John B. Gardner, 1952-1956.

New Kensington Bethesda 1850

ON April 1, 1850, St. James Lutheran Church came under the pastoral care of Rev. David Earhart of Leechburg, by whom it was organized. The little congregation of 19 members secured a lot from Samuel Ross and built a frame church, which was dedicated by Pastor Earhart, under the name of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church November 1, 1852. On November 2, 1852, the congregation adopted articles of incorporation, and the petition for the charter was signed.

From 1856 to 1859 Rev. L. M. Kuhns served them every two weeks in connection with Leechburg. After his resignation the church was connected with different parishes, but the association of Christ Church with Bethesda was begun in 1881. During the pastorate of Rev. P. G. Bell it was decided to relocate the church. A site near Yetter's schoolhouse was bought from William Ashbaugh, on which a frame church was built at a cost of $800. This cost was low, but much of the labor and material was donated.

The new church was dedicated, June 25, 1864, when Rev. L. M. Kuhns preached the sermon. A new charter was secured in 1862. During the synodical controversy Bethesda was under the care of Pastor S. F. Breckenridge, who took an active part in the debates held in doubtful parishes.

During the summer of 1920 the church was renovated at a cost of $1,735. It was rededicated by Pastor Oscar Woods October 10, 1920, when many of the sons and daughters of Bethesda returned to do honor to their mother church.

In 1939, under the leadership of Rev. Theodore H. Althof, the congregation decided to move to a site located on Leechburg Road, New Kensington. This move was prompted by the growth in population along Leechburg Road and the encouragement of Dr. Mullen, the Superintendent of Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod. Ground was broken in September of 1939 and the present building was dedicated March 31, 1940. This structure cost approximately $9,000. In 1949, while Rev. Robert C. Klingensmith was the pastor, a new parsonage was built on the land adjoining the church property at a cost of $18,000. This home boasts of the finest in modern conveniences.

Under the leadership of Rev. Elwood Hauser, Bethesda congregation grew in numbers so that additional facilities for worship and for church school purposes were necessary. In April of 1956, ground was broken for a new addition to the building. This building program will provide additional seating in the nave and much needed church school space. It is expected that the cost of building and furnishing this addition will be approximately $78,000.

The pastors have served in the following order: David Earhart, 1850-1853; J. W. Cregelo, 1854; L. M. Kuhns, 1856-1859; A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1859-1861; P. G. Bell, 1862-1864; S. F. Breckenridge, 1865-1869; Michael Colver, 1869-1871; F. T. Hoover, 1871-1877; D. R. P. Barry, 1877-1881; M. G. Earhart, 1881-1886; J. K. Hilty, 1886-1890; Carl Zinssmeister, 1890-1892; Alexander McLaughlin, 1892-1897; C. E. Smith, 1897-1899; J. E. Lerch, 1899-1903; J. M. Stover, 1904-1909; H. H. Flick, 1910-1917; Oscar Woods, 1917-1921; H. E. Seel, 1922-1924; Paul J. Tau, 1924-1933; Albert E. Speck, 1933-1936; Theodore H. Althof, 1936-1940; Frank R. Morton, 1941-1943; George M. Hershberger, 1943-1947; Robert Charles Klingensmith, 1948-1950; Ellwood Hauser, 1950-1955; Robert A. Himmelman, 1955 —.

New Kensington First 1891

(See Plate 28)

THIS city was laid out in 1890 by the Burrell Improvement Company. Its industries were of such substantial character that their success was assured from the beginning. Many Lutherans were attracted to the new town by the promise of good work, and Pastor Carl Zinssmeister conducted the first service for them, October 18, 1891. in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Parnassus. These and succeeding services were so encouraging that he organized a congregation of forty-two members, December 6, 1891. Pastor Zinssmeister supplied the new congregation in both German and English until March 1, 1892, when he was commissioned as the first regular pastor. Three lots were donated by the Burrell Company, which later proved very valuable as a church site. The cornerstone of a church was laid by Pastor Zinssmeister August 7, 1892, but a change of plans led to a relaying of the stone November 20. The completed church was dedicated, at the corner of Kenneth and Ridge Avenue October 1, 1893. It was a substantial brick church and cost about $8,000. A memorial bell was presented by the Burrell Company.

About six months before the dedication, the German part of the congregation was organized into a German Lutheran Church by Dr. J. D. Severinghaus, but this congregation was later disbanded. Pioneer work in First Church was hard and discouraging. With a new town, a heterogeneous population and a gain-seeking people, the church was given secondary consideration. After the resignation of Pastor Zinssmeister, Pastor Barry served as a supply, but found it hard to hold the people together. The debt was so heavy that the church at one time was offered for sale.

Rev. E. F. Dickey accepted a call in this emergency, and by good business methods established the church on a firmer financial basis. Much of the church debt was paid and a good congregation of 175 members gathered. Another long and trying vacancy ensued after his resignation in 1901, which proved almost as disastrous as the first. During this second vacancy, Pastor R. E. McDaniel of the General Council canvassed the community and organized St. Paul's Church, taking away some of the best families of the mission. When St. Paul's Church disbanded in 1909, the majority of the remaining twenty-one members united with First Church. Pastor Dickey's successor was Pastor Upton A. Hankey, who began his work in 1902. Under his leadership the recovery of the congregation was much more rapid than even its warmest friends had dared to hope; and it became a self-supporting parish, February 1, 1904. It was only a few years until the old church was outgrown, and the erection of a new church became imperative.

The parsonage was sold and removed; the old church was razed; and then the contract for the building of the new church was let. The conerstone was laid, June 27, 1915, and Pastor Hankey was privileged to conduct the first service in the basement October 4, 1915.

But this was the last service in the ministerial life of the devoted pastor. Stricken during the following week, he was called to his reward, January 3, 1916. Taking up the unfinished task of their leader, the congregation carried on the work of building to completion, and the church was dedicated by Dr. George W. Englar, March 19, 1916. This church is a two-story brick edifice, 60 x 100, now valued at $145,000. Pastor Hankey's successor was Pastor Taylor B. Yeakley, who began his pastorate, May 1, 1916, and succeeded in building up a great congregation of more than one thousand members and a Sunday School of like proportions.

Dr. Yeakley will always be remembered for his faithful work with the young of the congregation, the catechetical instruction, the confirmation of large classes, and the summer schools for the religious training of the young.

When Dr. Yeakley entered the pastorate of First Church, an indebtedness of $40,000 hung over the membership, but he introduced the Jehoida Chest as a money raising medium, and in seven years the mortgage was burned, and First Church started on a new life. The beautiful stained-glass window above the altar was placed there as a memorial to Dr. Yeakley, who was buried in the cemetery at Winchester, Virginia, his boyhood home.

The church council had been searching for a permanent pastor to succeed Dr. Yeakley. In the meantime, Dr. John Ekholm of the Agustana Synod, who had retired from the ministry in Boston, was living in the area and conducted the services until a new pastor was found.

The Rev. Samuel Boerstler, S.T.D., accepted a call and came to First Church from Erie, Pennsylvania. During the depression of 1929, and the ensuing years, the church property had deteriorated from lack of repairs and improvement, and it was the opinion of the membership that the improvement should be given first consideration.

A building committee drew up plans for improvement of the church chancel, the auditorium, the basement, and the kitchen, together with many other changes. A new Moller pipe organ was installed. The organ is a three-manual instrument and cost $15,000, which was included in the total cost of improvements of $30,000. One can scarcely visualize First Church without the many contributions during Pastor Boerstler's tenure: the three partitions of the vestibule; the wide center aisle, the new chancel with two choir lofts; the altar, reredos, pulpit, lectern, Gorham brasses, new lighting fixtures, etc. On Sunday, February 25, 1940, the remodeled church was dedicated.

Feeling that his work in New Kensington had been completed, Pastor Boerstler moved on to another parish, and in February, 1942, the Rev. George J. Baisler was called from Evans City, Pennsylvania, to the work in First Church. The membership grew; the Church School had a huge membership. Space was needed. Pastor Baisler had the answer. The congregation bought the Darwin Kunkle property next door to the church and adjacent to the parsonage at a cost of $10,000. This debt was liquidated within two years. Plans were formulated without delay to erect a new parish house on the newly acquired property. The plans included a preliminary ingathering of funds and an excellent scheme was set up for their collection. The building committee gave the "Go sign" to start the construction of a $150,000 Parish House. The building was dedicated in 1958.

In July, 1955, an assistant pastor, the Rev. Robert P. Haslage was installed, and thus First Church became the first Protestant church in New Kensington to have an assistant pastor. Pastor Haslage had been serving the First Trinity German Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Kensington, and in June, 1956, a merger was effected between that church and First Church making the work heavier and more exacting, but more fruitful.

That mission church of 1891, whose life seemed to hang by a mere thread, has now expanded to over 2000 baptized members of which number nearly 1,000 are communicants, with a plant that is made up of a two-story brick church valued at $145,000.00, a parsonage in keeping with its surroundings, and a beautiful spacious parish house. One charter member, Laura Klingensmith, is still living.

The pastorates in their order were as follows: Carl Zinssmeister, 1891-1893; D. R. P. Barry (supply), 1894; E. F. Dickey, 1894-1901; U. A. Hankey, D. D., 1902-1916; T. B. Yeakley, Ph. D., 1916-1938; Samuel Boerstler, S.T.D., 1938-1941; George J. Baisler, D. D., 1942 —; Robert P. Haslage, Assistant, 1955-1957.

North East — St. Peter's — 1896

THE founding of this organization was due to the missionary zeal of Dr. I. O. Baker of Erie. The organization was effected by him June 4, 1896.

"St. Peter's English Lutheran Church" was the name first selected, but "Evangelical" was later substituted for English. Services were held in rented halls at first, but were always conducted according to Lutheran ideals, however unchurchly the surroundings.

The lot on the corner of Pearl and Eagle streets, 90 x 100, was bought for $500, December 17, 1898. As soon as the last payment was made, plans were made for building a church. The cornerstone was laid September 6, 1900, and the Sunday School room dedicated December 16, 1900, but the church was not dedicated until June 16, 1902, by Pastor G. G. Ruff.

A small debt of $700 remained, but for some reason was not paid until 1915, The congregation was granted a charter of incorporation April 10, 1905.

During the pastorate of the Rev. M. A. Meier the basement was completed at a cost of $1,300. In 1921 the 25th Anniversary of the church was fittingly observed, the pastor at that time was the Rev. C. E. Read. During this year it was decided to build a parsonage adjoining the church on Eagle Street, which was completed that same year at a cost of $5,000.00.

In June, 1946 the 50th anniversary was celebrated, under the pastorate of the Rev. C. S. Brewer. Through the years many major improvements have been made in our church and parsonage; modern heating facilities, modern lighting, carpeting of the nave, remodeling of the Sunday School rooms and the sacristy. Also a fine Moller pipe organ and carillionic bells add beauty to our services. We value our church property at $92,000.00 in this our 60th year.

At present we have three active choirs, two Luther Leagues, Men's Brotherhood, St. Peter's Guild and the United Lutheran Church Women's group, all actively engaged in the Lord's service. We also have sponsored the largest single unit Daily Vacation Bible School in this area.

Our Sunday School is growing to the extent that plans are being studied whereby we can expand our buildings to accommodate all our classes to better advantage. The large Adult class, in attendance each Sunday, has been the answer to the prayers and labors of our pastor, the Rev. Wm. G. Steiner.

Today we report a membership of 368 baptized members, 117 baptized children, 251 confirmed, 192 communing members. We have one surviving charter member, Mrs. Charles J. Meehl.

Pastors who have served St. Peter's are (For the first three months student William Hall supplied the pulpit.) I. H. Stettler, 1896-1897; A. L. Benze, 1898-1899; G. G. Ruff, 1899-1902; C. L. V. Dozer, 1903-1904; J. Q. Waters, 1904-1907; A. C. Sumons, 1908-1910; M. A. Meier, 1912-1915; C. E. Read, 1916-1921; C. C. Ricker, 1922-1924; C. F. Hildebrand, 1924-1929; A. E. Simons, 1930-1932; John Keehley, 1933-1936; Wm. C. Hankey, 1936-1940; P. E. Walthour, 1940-1941; C. S. Brewer, 1942-1950; Paul E. Fauth, 1951-1954; Wm. G. Steiner, 1955 —.

North Lima, Ohio Good Hope 1806

THE first settlers of the North Lima community came from Pennsylvania and built their log cabins in the wilderness as early as 1804. They were chiefly German, but poor early records make it hard to give a complete list of family names. The founder of Good Hope Church was Father Stauch, who is said to have conducted services here as early as 1805. The first trustees of the congregation were elected in 1806, and this has been accepted as the date of the organization of the congregation. The first catechetical class was confirmed by Pastor Stauch in the barn of Christian Seidner in 1808, but he left no record of the communion held on the same day. The only record of baptism left by Pastor Stauch was that of the five children of Friedrich Sponseller, the oldest having been born December 26, 1804.

On October 13, 1810, Nathanael Routseng and wife conveyed a tract of ground to Michael Dutterer, Adam Hahn, John Shanefeld, and Christofer Mentzer, trustees, "For the purpose and use of the German Lutheran and Presbyterian Societies or Congregations," and a log church was built on this ground during that year. Although constructed of logs, it was built according to the church ideas of southern Germany, with a gallery on three sides and a pulpit above the altar. The panel work on the front of the pulpit and the galleries is said to have been very fine. This church served the congregation as a place of worship for sixty years. The relations between the Lutherans and the Reformed during these early years were so cordial that the Pastors assisted each other in the administration of the Lord's Supper. The first union constitution was adopted in 1813, and it is thought that this was the year when Pastor Stauch was succeeded by his pupil, Pastor Heinrich Huet. Pastor Huet served Good Hope congregation 36 years, often traveling on foot thirty miles to meet his engagements in a parish of fourteen congregations. When he died, February 16, 1855, his body was laid to rest in Bethlehem Cemetery in Youngstown.

Pastor Huet's successor was Pastor Samuel Baeschler, who was granted an ad interim license by the Ohio Synod, May 20, 1849, in order to serve the North Lima Parish. His record shows that he served a parish of six churches until November, 1856, when illness led him to take a rest. His successors were Rev. Gottlieb Kranz, 1857-1861, and J. F. Nuoffer, 1862-1865, but it is hard to distinguish the exact time of these pastorates since the records of ministerial acts seem to intermingle. Pastor Baeschler served a second pastorate here, 1869-1874, during which pastorate there was a separation of the Lutherans from the Reformed.

The Lutherans built a brick church in North Lima for $4,000.00. The last of the Ohio Synod Pastors retired in 1881. A call was extended to Rev. J. A. J. Zahn of the Pittsburgh Synod. The parish united with the Pittsburgh Synod in 1884 and has been served by pastors of the Pittsburgh Synod ever since. During the pastorate of Rev. S. L. Harkey, 1888-1891, the German language was replaced by the English language in the services. Under Pastor D. B. Stahlman a more serviceable constitution was adopted.

The parsonage was built in 1901 for $1,820.00 and the interior of the church was renovated the following year.

During the long pastorate of Dr. L. J. Baker the congregation grew steadily in membership and quite rapidly. July 27, 1947, the congregation optioned the old church, built in 1870, to the school trustees of Beaver Township for $15,000.00 subject to a bond issue to be placed before the voters of Beaver Township at the fall election. The bond issue carried and the school trustees claimed the option as

soon as bonds could be issued and sold. The congregation formally left the old church with a service held May 16, 1948, when Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, the president of the Pittsburgh Synod gave the address. The school trustees changed their plans and allowed the congregation to continue worshipping in the old church. The last service held in the old church was the union Thanksgiving Service, held at the evening service November 21, 1948. From that time until February 10, 1952, the congregation worshipped in the School Auditorium, which is also the gymnasium.

Immediately after the old church was sold, the members of the congregation were canvassed for pledges to a Building Fund. A Building Committee was appointed by the Pastor. The Committee employed Arthur L. Martsolf as architect and directed him to draw plans and specifications for a Gothic Church with a seating capacity of 160 in the nave. The plans as approved provided a narthex, a nave, a large chancel, a sanctuary on the main floor, with a sacristy as the southeast wing and a social room as the southwest wing.

The Committee decided that our reed organ would not be in harmony with the new church and not satisfactory and had a two manual Baldwin electronic organ installed at a cost of $3,000.00.

This structure was dedicated as a house of God, February 10, 1952, by the Pastor L. J. Baker, D. D. G. Lawrence Himmelman, D. D., the president of the Pittsburgh Synod delivered the dedicatory address.

The cost of the church as dedicated was $90,000.00. A mortgage loan was made for $20,000.00 on the twenty year payment plan. The congregation has not only paid its regular monthly payments, but has made so many special payments, that the mortgage balance now, January 15, 1956, is only $7,170.09.

Five of the sons of Good Hope have entered the ministry: H. F. Obenauf, P. E. Baisler, Ezra Houk, Aaron Houk, and S. H. Yerian.

The pastors of Good Hope Church in their order were: Johannes Stauch, 1806-1813; Heinrich Huet, 1813-1849; Samuel Baeschler, 1849-1956; Gottlieb Kranz, 1857-1861; J. F. Nuoffer, 1862-1865; C. A. J. Cramer, 1865-1869; Samuel Baeschler (second term), 1869-1874; P. Raether, 1874-1881; Herman Gilbert (supply), 1881-1882; J. A. J. Zahn, 1882-1887; S. L. Harkey, D. D., 1888-1891; D. B. Stahlman, 1891-1895; William Weicksel, 1895-1899; F. T. Weiskotten, 1900-1904; G. A. Fechner, 1904-1908; J. H. Graf, 1909-1923; Theodore Hoffmeister, 1923-1927; F. L. Will, 1927-1933; L. J. Baker, D. D., 1933-1956; S. H. Gross, 1956 —.

North Lima, Ohio Paradise 1849

EARLY in the year of 1848 Pastor F. C. Becker of Lordstown began to hold services on Paradise Hill. The German Lutherans and the Reformed of the community responded well, so well that a congregation was organized early in 1849. They immediately took steps to secure a church building. A building committee was elected and instructed to proceed at once to obtain bids for the construction of a church building. Following their instruction, the building committee let the contract for the building of the church to Michael Vollnagle for the sum of $426.00, the building to be finished within four months of the signing of the contract. The cornerstone of the church was laid by Pastor Becker August 28, 1849, and the building was dedicated by Pastor Baeschler May 9, 1850.

The church was built in the northwest corner of what was then known as the George Messerly land. It was a small frame building, painted white, with two en-

trances on the west side. The pews were divided by a central partition, the men sitting on one side the women on the other. All services in this church were conducted in German, alternating between the Lutherans and the Reformed.

On Sunday morning, May 1, 1881, as the Reformed were preparing for services, the church caught fire and was burned to the foundation.

After this loss the Lutherans decided to rebuild in the village of New Buffalo, where Mr. Frank Beard donated ground for the church building and also ground for burial purposes.

The kind donor was not permitted to worship in the new church, for his body was the first to be laid to rest in the burial ground while the church was still unfinished, but funeral services were held in the unfinished church. The building was dedicated by Pastor J. A. J. Zahn in 1882. It was a substantial building costing $2,500.00. It was a credit to the congregation and an honor to the New Buffalo village.

Being located in a rural community, the congregation has found it difficult to repair the loss of continuous removal to industrial sections. So much was this the case that Dr. Burgess in his Memorial History of the Pittsburgh Synod, 1925, says, "The membership was never more than 80." The membership decreased until there was strong sentiment to disband which was prevented largely through the efforts of Mr. C. L. Meeker. Since 1933 there has been a slow but steady growth in membership until the communing membership is now 110.

During the year 1949, its one-hundredth anniversary year, the Paradise Congregation did extensive remodeling. The basement was excavated, a new hot air heating plant was installed, an assembly room and class rooms for the Sunday School were provided, the old windows in the church were replaced with leaded opal glass windows, electric lanterns replaced the old oil lamps, the hard wood floor was sanded and stained and varnished, the chancel and the aisles were carpeted, the vestibule was covered with tile block, the exterior and the interior of the church were newly decorated. Mrs. John Rohrbach presented the congregation with a Gorham altar set. The entire ground was graded and a blacktop driveway leading from Western Reserve Road around the church and back to the highway was constructed. The remodeled and redecorated church was rededicated, October 2, 1949. The Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., the president of the Pittsburgh Synod, preached the sermon and the Rev. L. J. Baker, D. D., conducted the dedicatory service.

In 1954 the congregation vested the choir and the Pastor began to wear the robe regularly.

In 1955 a well was drilled, a pressure tank installed and running water placed in the church, two rest rooms were equipped and a septic tank installed, and the coal furnace was converted to an oil burner. A kitchenette is still to be provided.

The church in external and internal appearance is beautiful and churchly. It is a country church with modern conveniences.

During the more than one-hundred years of its existence, the Paradise Congregation has had the following pastors: F. C. Becker, 1849; Samuel Baeschler, 1849-1856; Gottlieb Kranz, 1857-1861; J. F. Nuoffer, 1862-1865; C. A. J. Cramer, 1865-1869; Samuel Baeschler (second term), 1869-1874; P. Raether, 1874-1881; J. A. J. Zahn, 1882-1887; S. L. Harkey, 1888-1891; D. B. Stahlman, 1891-1895; William Weicksel, 1895-1899; T. F. Weiskotten, 1900-1904; G. A. Fechner, 1904-1908; J. H. Graf, 1909-1923; Theodore Hoffmeister, 1923-1928; Frederick Will, 1928-1933; L. J. Baker, D. D., 1933-1956; S. H. Gross, 1956 —.

THE hopes of religious families for a church in Ohio View were quickened when church services and Sunday School were held for the first time in the Logan school building on September 14, 1952. Thirty-six persons gathered for this first service and 42 persons, including 31 children, assembeled for Sunday School. The "venture of faith" had begun. Mr. James Costanzo conducted the survey for the United Lutheran Church which revealed the need and desire for a church in this hitherto unchurched but growing community. The Rev. Wilbert Wilson, East Liverpool, Ohio, served as pastor on alternate Sundays. Families from Midland, Midland Heights, and Ohio View united in this venture, and with the counsel and advice of Donald Houser, Home Mission Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, six lots on the corner of Ohio View Drive and Pine Grove Road were purchased as the site of the future church. In November, 1952, aided by the mission board, a parsonage was purchased, the former Louis Benek residence.

December 7, 1952, the Rev. J. Ray Houser, Jr., preached his first sermon as full-time minister of the newly formed group. Charter Day was held February 22, 1953, with Dr. G. Lawrence Himmelman, president of the Pittsburgh Synod, as guest speaker. The women of the congregation displayed their eagerness to get on with the Lord's work when they organized as "The Women of the Church" on March 17. Not to be outdone, the men of the church renovated the parsonage basement. On May 6 the congregation moved its place of worship into the attractive and tastefully furnished house-chapel.

On Sunday, May 17, 1953, the group thrilled to its formal organization as a congregation. The service was held in a large tent on the site of the future church. Over 325 persons witnessed this venture of faith move forward, by God's grace, with 101 adult charter members. The following month, on June 3, the first church council was elected.

The following Sunday the first confirmation class was confirmed. The children of the congregation demonstrated that they were as zealous as their parents when they undertook, on July 20, to purchase a new Wurlitzer organ for the church.

With a growth of membership and activities (Luther League, young people's group, Vacation Church School, choir, church newspaper, etc.) and the Sunday school expanding into the living room and pastor's study, it was quite apparent that plans be made for the future. Thus the next logical step was considered — the building of the church — and on December 6, 1953, the congregation gave its approval for the forming of a planning committee and the engagement of an architect.

Mr. Arthur L. Martsolf, architect, was engaged and upon the successful completion of a preliminary building fund drive, Easter, 1954, a two-year building fund program was initiated in July, 1954. The building committee, under Homer Gifford, held many meetings during 1954 and 1955, carefully considering numerous plans and alternatives. Finally, on March 18, 1956, the congregation approved the present building and construction began in April. The church has a nave seating 153, a Sunday School assembly room, stage, kitchen, sacristy, storage and comfort facilities. The exterior is of red Roman tile with a large aluminum cross surrounded by tinted antique glass forming the motif of the entrance. Redwood siding on the exterior complements the natural redwood and oak finish of the interior. The total cost of the building program was approximately $77,000.00

with the building itself costing $68,000.00. Adequate parking facilities are provided and the building designed to allow for additional expansion. The laying of the cornerstone took place Sunday, May 20th 1956.

The first pastor to serve Ohio View was J. Ray Houser, Jr., 1952-1958. He was succeeded by James N. Servey.

Penn Penn 1891

THIS community was largely settled by people from nearby Brush Creek Church. The development of the coal lands tended to centralize the population along the railroad and created a demand for a church at Penn Station. A Sunday School was organized at Weitz Hall on January 27, 1890 with W. H. Landis as superintendent and classes in both German and English. This start of an organization was made under the leadership of Rev. D. M. Kemerer without formal synodical support. The nucleus of this congregation was composed of substantial families, closely related, among whom existed the greatest cordiality.

The congregation was organized on August 2, 1891 by Rev. R. M. Zimmerman, who was then pastor of Holy Trinity, Jeannette. A charter was secured April 30, 1892. Pastor Zimmerman served the congregation until October 14, 1894. After the resignation of Pastor Zimmerman, Penn Lutheran Church became a part of Brush Creek Parish, and in this relationship was served by Pastors G. S. Seaman and Philip Doerr. During the pastorate of Rev. Doerr the church building was erected. The lot on which the church was built was secured from the Westmoreland Coal Company in 1895. The cornerstone was laid on October 10, 1897 and the building was dedicated by Pastor Doerr on June 1, 1898. German and English addresses were made at the dedication.

The 34 x 45 church was built of brick at a cost of $3,500. After the close of the pastorate of Rev. Philip Doerr the congregation became independent of Brush Creek Charge and had the full time of its own pastor. During the pastorate of Rev. G. W. Spiggle a parsonage was built. The church was also improved at a cost of $3,525 with the rededication service being held on April 19, 1914.

After Rev. Frank W. Ash became pastor a debt of nearly $2,000 was paid off in 1920 and the property valued at $24,000 was free of encumbrance. During this pastorate the church was again thoroughly renovated and was equipped with a Moller pipe organ. The pastorate of Rev. Ash was brought to a close by the death of this very consecrated and effective pastor. In the summer of 1941, during the pastorate of Rev. Robert Richter, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the congregation was celebrated.

The pastorates in their order are: R. M. Zimmerman, 1891-1894; G. S. Seaman, 1894-1896; Philip Doerr, 1897-1908; G. W. Spiggle, 1909-1918; F. W. Ash, 1919-1935; S. E. Kuhn, 1936-1941; R. C. Richter, 1941-1945; William W. Zundel, 1946-1950; F. H. Miller, 1951-1957; Bruce A. Gibson, 1958 —.

Penn Township Apostles' 1954

APOSTLES' Lutheran Church, 447 Hamil Rd. (Penn Twp.) Verona, Pa., was organized on March 7, 1954 with seventy-four charter members. The Rev. John C. Bellingham was the mission developer and was called as the congregation's first pastor.

With the assistance of the Board of American Missions, a two and one-half story house and three acres of land were purchased. Through volunteer effort the property was cleared, a parking lot developed and the house changed into a house-chapel with study and office, kitchen, bath, social room and six rooms for Sunday Church School.

Pastor Bellingham resigned on June 1, 1956 to enter the chaplaincy of the Air Force. Through the summer months, the congregation was served by Seminarian Raymond Hausele. In the fall of 1956, a parsonage was purchased. The Rev. E. Earl Anderson was installed as pastor on December 16, 1957. The present confirmed membership is 106.

Penn Township Zion United 1947

(See Plate 30)

ON February 13, 1946 a group of interested persons met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Ways, Wilkinsburg, to arrange for the first mission service. Among the people who helped to plan the beginning of this church was Pastor F. H. Schott. Long before this time Lutherans in this area had been hopeful that a church could be established in this fast growing area.

A bulletin was circulated in the Jefferson Road area announcing the beginning of a Sunday School. On February 24 Pastors Donald L. Houser, H. Reed Shepfer, and Franklin H. Schott waited anxiously to see the newcomers. Mr. Hitson was named superintendent for the first meeting. Pastor Schott presented the address.

The first meeting of the church planning committee was held on April 30, 1946 in the home of Mrs. A. Jansson. In June of that year a door to door survey was made of Penn Township. From February until June of 1946 three pastors had taken charge of the organizing of this congregation: Donald L. Houser, Franklin H. Schott, and Wallace Fisher. On June 7, 1946 Seminarian Thomas Baker came to preach and visit with the families. From September 1 until December 1 Mr. J. Clyde Cloman, a prominent lay-preacher for the synod conducted the worship services. The U. L. C. A. Board of American Missions on October 25 called Rev. H. Paul Gerhard of Magnolia, New Jersey, to develop the field. He began his work on December 3 and was called to be the first pastor of Zion on April 20, 1947.

From February 24, 1946 to April 14 of that year services for the church and Sunday School were held at 2:00 P. M. Beginning with April 14 Church service and Sunday School were held at 11:15. From January 5, 1947 separate hours for the School and church services were set at 10:00 and 11:00 o'clock respectively. An increasing number of services had to be held. By the fall of 1956 a four-service schedule was started with a two-session school and a nursery hour together with three Luther Leagues which comprised the total Sunday program.

For almost four years, until December, 1949, Zion services were held in the Penn Hebron Garden Club, a former barn beautifully converted into a community meeting place.

The first building, a chapel unit seating 150, designed in English, Gothic-derivative style, was dedicated December 18, 1949 with Dr. Houser and Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, president of Synod, assisting. The groundbreaking and blessing of the Church site took place on March 20. The cornerstone placed on June 26 was made from a foundation stone of the abandoned Jefferson Road School formerly attended by some of the Zion members. The event was televised by the Dumont network June 27.

The second unit, a parish hall, was dedicated on December 29, 1953 with Dr. G. L. Himmelman in charge. Plans for a Church building to seat approximately 450 were initiated in the Fall of 1957. In June, 1956 the adjoining property with two large dwellings was purchased, looking forward to the expanding program and future development.

The address, 11609 Frankstown Road, is near the geographical center of Penn Township, which in the 1950's has become one of the fastest growing areas in the County.

The response to the first meeting was 32 persons in addition to the 13 leaders from Advent, Superintendent Houser and Dr. H. Reed Shepfer. Fifteen months later on April 20, 1947, 54 charter members organized Zion United Lutheran Church, Penn Township.

Growth during the four years spent in the Penn Hebron Garden Club was slow, finally reaching 167 confirmed membership. By the tenth anniversary time, more than 750 confirmed members were enrolled, and 1200 baptized.

The first Christmas Eve Service was attended by 87 people. In 1956 five services were needed to take care of the 800 worshippers who wanted to attend the Christmas Eve Service of that year.

Music has, from the beginning, been an important part of the worship service at Zion. The parsonage at 11738 Joan Drive early became the cradle of music in the church, for it was here the choirs met regularly to rehearse the liturgy, the hymns, and learn the fine music of the church.

Pastor H. Paul Gerhard, the first pastor of this ten year old congregation, is still the active shepherd of Zion United.

Pitcairn — St. Paul's — 1903

PITCAIRN is located in the Turtle Creek Valley, midway between the towns of Wilmerding and Trafford, Pa. It is an industrial community depending upon the Pennsylvania Railroad Repair Shops situated there, and the Westinghouse plants in neighboring localities, for its existence.

First attempts at forming an English Lutheran Church were made in 1895 by Pastor J. E. Bittle, but conditions did not seem favorable at that time. Pastor W. E. Bauer, then located at Braddock, conducted the first service under the sponsorship of the General Council on April 19, 1903. The congregation was organized on September 27 of the same year with twenty members. Pastor Bauer served the congregation along with his church at Braddock until April 25, 1909. Services were held in the Baptist Church.

His successor was Pastor William A. Zundel who served from October 1, 1909 until July 1, 1911. On March 20, 1910 a lot was bought on Robinson Street. A portable chapel of the Pittsburgh Church Extension Society was secured for services and was used for ten years. It was dedicated by Pastor Zundel on September 18, 1910.

When Pastor Zundel left the congregation, the Pitcairn-Trafford Parish was formed. The third pastor was Rev. H. F. Obenauf who served from August 1, 1911 until December 31, 1916. During his pastorate 74 new members were added to the congregation and a lot was bought at the corner of Center and Agatha Streets. Student W. H. Baker supplied the parish during the summer of 1917 and became its regular pastor after his ordination in 1918. During his pastorate the church, which still houses the congregation today, was built, on the lot at Center and Agatha Streets. The building was made possible by virtue of a loan from the Pittsburgh Church Extension Society and the assistance of the U. L. C. Board. The cornerstone was laid October 15, 1922, and the completed building was dedicated by Pastor Baker on June 17, 1923. It is built of scored brick and stone with exposed trusses. The total cost was $38,000. The basement was equipped for Sunday School purposes and serves in that capacity today. Pastor Baker remained with the congregation until March 17, 1924.

Rev. M. L. A. Schilling served from May 2, 1943 until January 15, 1946. Blessed with the energy of youth he strengthened the forces at his command and increased the membership of the church. In March, 1946 a parsonage was bought by the congregation, located at 409 Eleanor Street. On June 2, 1946 Rev. F. W. Hofmann assumed his duties as pastor of the church. He served until March 1, 1954. During his pastorate, the parsonage, which had been purchased prior to his coming to the field, was renovated and improved, and a Wurlitzer electric organ installed in the church. During his ministry also, the fiftieth anniversary of the congregation was observed in the year 1953.

The present pastor, Rev. Paul C. Bekeschus, assumed the duties of his pastorate on July 1, 1954. Since his coming the congregation has assumed the responsibility of taking care of extensive improvements on the property of the church. The church building has been completely re-wired and a new system of lighting in the sanctuary and the Sunday School has been installed. A new floor of cement covered with asphalt tile has been built in the Sunday School. The interior of the church and Sunday School also has been completely redecorated.

Following is the list of pastors of St. Paul's Pitcairn since its beginning: W. E. Bauer, 1903-1909; W. A. Zundel, 1909-1911; H. F. Obenauf, 1911-1916; W. H. Baker, 1918-1924; R. F. Steininger, 1924-1929; Charles E. Dozer, 1929-1942; M. L. A. Schilling, 1943-1946; F. W. Hofmann, 1946-1954; Paul C. Bekeschus, 1954 —.

Pittsburgh (Wilkinsburg) Advent 1929

ON September 11, 1927, a group of people, calling themselves "St. Paul's Mission", held a service and received 40 persons into communing membership. Communion was celebrated and 11 children were baptized at that time. The Rev. Charles B. Foelsch, Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Wilkinsburg, Pa., assisted by Student Assistant John E. Slater, conducted this first service.

Rev. John E. Slater was installed as the regular pastor June the 3rd, 1928. At a service on January 27, 1929, held for organizational purposes, and with Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, United Lutheran Church in America, the Rev. J. J. Myers presiding, it was decided to change the name of the church to Wilkinsburg Manor Evangelical Lutheran Church. At the same meeting a call was extended to Rev. John E. Slater, Assistant Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, to become the pastor of this newly organized congregation.

On March 10, 1929, it was decided by the congregation to change the name of the church to The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Advent.

A 5th Anniversary celebration was held at services on the two Sundays of January 21st and 28th, 1934. Rev. J. E. Slater resigned the pastorate effective May 31, 1935. A call was extended Rev. George W. Stough on June 16, 1935. He was installed on August 4, 1935. A 10th Anniversary celebration was held September 12, 1937.

On October 31, 1937, the congregation decided to buy a parsonage, the location being 1922 Remington Drive, Wilkinsburg Manor, Pittsburgh, Pa.

During the summer of 1941, Rev. G. W. Stough resigned the pastorate to enter the United States Army Chaplaincy. A call was extended to Seminarian Franklin H. Schott on November 1, 1941. His installation took place on May 31, 1942. A mortgage burning ceremony, celebrating Advent's becoming debt free took place February 24, 1946.

On February 24, 1946 some of the members of the Sunday School and church helped start a new Sunday School at Rodi Corner, Penn Township. This later became a new Mission called Zion United Lutheran Church.

On June 3, 1946 the congregation voted to start a building program for a new church, located on Robinson Blvd., and to cost $10,000. Lots were purchased September, 1946. Rev. F. H. Schott resigned the pastorate July 14, 1946, to become effective July 31, 1946.

A call was extended to Rev. John B. Spielman who assumed the charge on October 1, 1946. Installation took place October 20, 1946, with Missionary Superintendent D. L. Houser performing the installation and Rev. Walter L. Spielman, D. D., the pastor's father, preaching the sermon.

Rising prices for building and a changing picture for Advent's needs caused delay in building a new church for a period of five years. Finally, in January, 1951, the congregation was able to proceed with the preliminary steps to act. A Building Committee was appointed consisting of Mr. E. L. Markel, Chairman, Mr. E. L. James and Pastor Spielman.

On April 15, 1951 an impressive ground breaking ceremony was held on the Robinson Blvd. lots. Work progressed for two weeks. At this point it was determined that the ground was unsuited for a church structure.

After exhausting every possibility of building in the vicinity of the old church building, the congregation voted to relocate the church. Lots were purchased in the 2800 block on Graham Blvd. and ground was broken once more on July 1, 1951.

To our aid came the combined efforts and cooperation of the Mission Board of the Pittsburgh Synod, and the Board of American Missions of the U. L. C. A. Their respective leaders worked heroically with the pastor, building committee, council and congregation to bring this about. The laying of the cornerstone took place on September 30, 1951.

Regular services were held in the old building until the end of February, 1952. The building having been sold to the Wilkinsburg Women's Club—a Secularization Service was held after our last service in the old structure. It was most fitting and impressive that the last worship in the original Advent Lutheran Church be observed with Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, February 27, 1952.

The congregation was able to meet in the nave of the new church on Palm Sunday, April 6, 1952. It was an impressive event, being enhanced with confirmation and reception of new members.

Pastors who have served this church are: John E. Slater, 1929-1935; George W. Stough, 1935-1941; Franklin H. Schott, 1941-1946; John B. Spielman, 1946-1957: Thomas C. Cooper, 1957 —.

Pittsburgh Bethany 1888

THE East Liberty section of Pittsburgh was a rapidly growing residential district in 1888, and the need for a church to serve the Lutheran residents here was soon recognized by the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod of the Lutheran Church.

In that year, the Rev. John Goettman, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Allegheny, offered his services in the work of organizing a church in the area. Emanuel Beighley, an East Liberty resident, assisted in the survey, and his active interest in the affairs of the church continued until his death.

Through their efforts, an organization meeting was held on January 29, 1888, when 14 men and 19 women signed a covenant for the purpose of establishing a Lutheran congregation in East Liberty.

It was at the suggestion of one of the women, Mrs. Sarah Murphy, that the new church was named the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church. The new congregation promptly rented Smith's Hall on the second floor of the building occupied by Smith's grocery store at the corner of Centre and Highland Avenues.

The original building has since been razed and the site is now occupied by the store building of Stevenson-Chislett.

Here worship services were held and a Sunday School organized. The Rev. Edward E. Hoshour was appointed supply pastor, and the first church council was elected.

The first regularly called pastor was the Rev. George L. Hamm, D. D., Ph. D., who served from 1888 to 1891. During the first half year of his pastorate, a lot was purchased on the corner of Highland and Kirkwood. The small brick cottage on the lot served for a parsonage until the space was needed for the present building.

A two room chapel was erected facing Highland Avenue in 1889. When Rev. Hamm retired from the active ministry, the Rev. John Weidley, then a senior at Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary, was called and installed as pastor. Under his guidance, the congregation prospered and the chapel soon became inadequate.

A congregational meeting was held July 11, 1894, and William Pore, Henry A. Guepner and Frederick Householder were authorized to obtain plans for a larger building. The plans approved, the three men were retained as a building committee, and ground was broken on October 10, 1894.

The cornerstone was laid on June 23, 1895, and the church completed and dedicated on October 20 of that year. The week of the dedication, the 50th anniversary convention of the Pittsburgh Synod was held in the church.

The main auditorium is 53 by 60 feet, with a seating capacity of about 500 people. The Sunday School accommodates some 300 pupils, and the pastor's study, choir room and offices are in the Sunday School section.

A pipe organ was installed behind the pulpit, but has since been moved to the side of the chancel. The three rose windows in the main part of the church are especially beautiful and worthy of being included with other outstanding examples of stained glass art in the city.

At a congregational meeting, September 29, 1899, Rev. Weidley recommended purchasing two lots on Mt. Vernor Street in the "Kendron Plan," now Homewood, and erecting a building to be used as a branch Sunday School.

The recommendation was approved and out of this venture has grown the Church of the Redeemer.

During the year 1901 the entire interior of the building was frescoed and the auditorium carpeted. The following year, extensive improvements were made in the basement, then known as the Assembly Hall.

The alterations cost more than could be readily raised by the congregation, and a loan of $23,000 was negotiated, giving a mortgage on the property as security. William Pore then paid the note and relieved the church of the financial burden. On New Year's Eve, 1902, his generosity was recognized with a service of thanksgiving.

After extensive alterations, the church was rededicated on April 9, 1905. The improvements made included the addition of the bay on the Highland Avenue front.

Early in 1906, Rev. Weidley accepted a call to Washington, D. C., and the Rev. George M. Heindel supplied the church until the installation of the Rev. George W. Englar, D. D., Ph. D., as the third pastor of the church in October of that year.

Rev. Englar came to Bethany at the age of 31, and for a little over 31 years faithfully fulfilled his mission here. During his pastorate, the church was again redecorated, and in 1924 the need for more Sunday School space was met by remodeling the basement rooms into what is now known as the "Lower Temple."

Another decorative program was carried out in 1936 at the request of Frank J. Shives, who generously assumed all expenses. It is a memorial to his wife, Mrs. Adah L. Shives, and his son, Walter E. Shives, both of whom were members of Bethany until their deaths.

The council of the church met in the office during the evening of December 6, 1937, to complete plans for the celebration of the 50th anniversary in January of 1938. Dr. Englar presided, and returned to his home to read the first draft of the historical sketch for the anniversary program.

He passed away at 4 a. m. that morning.

During the four months following his death, the pulpit was supplied by the Rev. Merle R. Kunkelman and other ministers, until the Rev. William G. Leubin was called from Columbus, Ohio.

He served from May, 1938 until February of 1947, when the Rev. George W. Nicely, D. D., became pastor, to be followed in 1952 by the Rev. Harry L. Berkebile, the present pastor.

Currently, the church has 827 baptized members, 633 confirmed members, and 322 communing members. The Sunday School meets every Lord's Day at 9:45 a. m., and the service begins at 11 a. m.

There are three Women's Missionary Societies in the church, a Brotherhood, and a Luther League. Bethany sponsors Cub Pack 322, and is the meeting place of the East End Auxiliary and the Golden Age Club of the Lutheran Service Society.

Radical changes have taken place in the East End during the 67 years of Bethany's existence. The church, a congregation of the Pittsburgh Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America, was organized in a residential neighborhood.

It now stands in the heart of the East Liberty business district, where the clangor of industry often mingles with the melody of worship, but the dominant purpose of its founders — to maintain a holy Christian Church, loyal to the truth and abounding in good works and consecrated service — remains unchanged.

Pastors who have served Bethany are: John Goettman, D. D., organizer, 1888; Edward E. Hoshour, (supply), 1888; George L. Hamm, 1888-1891; John Weidley, 1891-1906; George M. Heindel (supply), 1906; George W. Englar, D. D., 1906-1938; William G. Leubin, 1938-1947; George W. Nicely, 1947-1952; Harry L. Berkebile, 1952 —.

Pittsburgh Bethel 1894

THE first effort to plant a Lutheran congregation in this section of the city was made by Dr. John G. Goettman in 1866. A mission school was organized by him in a hall on Chartiers street, and sustained for a considerable time. The loss of their meeting place led to its temporary disbandment. In the meantime the interested workers of the General Council secured a vacant room and opened a school. The friends of the General Synod then urged Dr. Goettman to start a rival school, but this he declined to do on the grounds that the General Council had fairly captured the field. In the course of time the General Council school ripened into Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

General Synod as well as General Council people were drawn into its fellowship, but the former were dissatisfied with synodical relations, and finally withdrew to organize Bethel Church. The meeting for this purpose was held in the Sixth Ward School, July 16, 1893, at which M. J. Shaw served as president and W. C. Collmer as secretary. Fifty-one persons attended this meeting. A constitution in harmony with the General Synod was adopted, and Rev. J. M. Hankey of Emmanuel called as pastor.

Naturally this action raised a storm in synodical circles. The General Council leaders believed that the General Synod people had interferred with their mission and caused all the dissension. Pastor Hankey was dismissed from his synod by a vote of 76 to 4, but a few weeks lated was admitted with the new congregation to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod. A series of resolutions were passed by the latter body, October 12, 1893, expressing regret over the issue with the General Council, but affirming a duty with respect to the General Synod people living in Manchester. As soon as the new synodical relationship was established, the congregation proceeded to the task of securing a house of worship.

Early in 1894 the lot on the corner of Washington avenue and Fulton street was bought for $9,500. A small brick chapel was erected on the rear of this lot at a cost of $3,500, which was dedicated by Pastor J. M. Hankey, July 8, 1894. Owing to ill health Pastor Hankey resigned, August 1, 1894, and was succeeded by Rev. Fuller Bergstresser, who served from October 1, 1894 to September 16,

1900, and built up a strong congregation of 191 members. The Sunday School shared in this progress, and enrolled 450 scholars. The heavy debt of $10,000 was gradually reduced to $6,850.

During this pastorate of seventeen years Dr. King did a great work, building up a congregation of 600 members and one of the best equipped Sunday Schools of the city. The mission became a self-sustaining parish, October 1, 1901, and the troublesome mortgage was consigned to the flames, April 2, 1903.

Because of the need for larger quarters, the little brick chapel was sold, and the Congregational Church on the corner of Franklin and Manhattan streets bought for $23,000. Since this building had cost the Congregationalists $42,000, its purchase was considered quite advantageous for Bethel. The sum of $10,000 was secured for the chapel, and the pastor collected $6,122 on the day of dedication, so that but little debt remained. The new house of worship was dedicated by Dr. King, September 3, 1905. Extensive repairs were made to the Sunday School rooms in 1911 at a cost of $3,100. On July 17, 1914 the final mortgage was burned. The membership increased from 190 to 550 during this pastorate. Dr. King resigned as pastor of Bethel October 1, 1917 to become Associate President of Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa.

On November 1, 1917, the Rev. C. W. Barnett became the fourth pastor of Bethel Church, serving until May 1, 1922. The Church auditorium was frescoed the organ re-leathered and the duplex envelope system of financing was adopted during his pastorate. Bethel's confirmed membership was 600, and the Sunday School 456, at the close of Rev. Barnett's pastorate.

A call was extended to the Rev. Frank P. Fisher, Altoona, Pa. on May 24, 1922 to become the fifth pastor of Bethel. The call was accepted and Rev. Fisher entered upon his duties as pastor, June 30, 1922. This was a ministry destined to last twenty-five years almost to the day, and was perhaps the most fruitful period of the Bethel church's history, up to this time. Extensive additions, repairs and general over all renovations were effected for both the parsonage and church properties; and particularly the church auditorium, which made it to become recognized as probably the most attractive and inviting sanctuary in the Manchester district.

In addition to the above, many valuable donations were made to the church, by many individuals, classes, groups and organizations, at the suggestion or solicitation of the Pastor. These are too numerous to mention in detail, but all given, many of them in loving memory of someone, to the glory and honor of Almighty God. Because of declining health Dr. Fisher felt compelled to resign as pastor of Bethel, June 30, 1947.

The Rev. John E. Bermon was extended a call to come to Bethel later in the same year. This call was accepted and Rev. Bermon served the congregation from November, 1947 until June, 1951; when he resigned to go to the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Erie.

The seventh pastor called to Bethel was the Rev. Robert M. Herhold, who began his pastorate July 29, 1951 and served until January 10, 1954. During this pastorate, Bethel celebrated its sixtieth anniversary with appropriate services, in the Fall of the year 1953.

On February 28, 1954, Dr. W. A. Logan came to Bethel as "Interim Pastor" and served the congregation in that capacity until the end of the year; when he resigned to take over the duties of Passavant Hospital's Director of Public Relations.

No full time pastoral successor has as yet been called to Bethel; but since January 1, 1955 Bethel's pulpit has been faithfully supplied by Dr. Logan, whose membership is retained in this congregation, and Mr. A. G. Keehner, a layman of the congregation; and under the able leadership of its Church Council, is endeavoring to continue to serve the community, the Pittsburgh Synod and the work of the Church at large.

The pastors of Bethel have served in the following order: J. M. Hankey, 1893-1894; Fuller Bergstresser, 1894-1900; C. B. King, 1900-1917; C. W. Barnett, 1917-1922; F. P. Fisher, 1922-1947; J. E. Bermon, 1947-1951; R. M. Herhold, 1951-1954; W. A. Logan (supply), 1954-1955. (Vacant, 1955-1957).

Pittsburgh (Wilkinsburg) Calvary 1896

(See Plate 30)

DR. William A. Passavant was the moving force behind the establishment of a Lutheran Church in Wilkinsburg. When a new plan of lots was laid out by Henry Reis and Robert Curling in 1852, a lot on the corner of Kelley and Trenton avenues was conveyed to Dr. Passavant in trust for a Lutheran congregation. After the organization of St. Paul's Church in 1896 the fulfillment of this trust was made possible.

St. Paul's Church, however, was not the first Lutheran organization effected in this city. On May 4, 1891 Rev. Samuel R. Elson of Braddock organized Grace English Lutheran Church of Wilkinsburg in the old Academy. Lack of interest led to the transfer of this congregation to Brushton during the same year, and its reorganiaztion under a different name.

Five years later a number of members of this Brushton congregation united with others in founding a new congregation. Their first services were held in Lohr's Hall June 12, 1896, and continued regularly every two weeks. A successful Sunday School was launched by them September 20, 1896, which gave them great encouragement. At a special meeting in Lohr's Hall, March 14, 1897 Calvary was organized with 26 members. While this number was not large, Calvary enjoyed the distinction of being a self-sustaining parish from the beginning. The church did not call a pastor at once, but accepted such services as Rev. F. H. Crissman was able to give them in connection with Brushton Parish.

On May 30, 1897 Rev. Crissman accepted a regular call, serving them until November 1, 1898 and building up a congregation of 77 members. His successor was Rev. J. Bradley Markward who accepted a call in 1899. A plot of ground on the corner of South avenue and Center Street improved by two good houses was bought for $8,000 June 28, 1899. Here a church was built that was dedicated by Pastor Markward April 14, 1901. The securing of this place of worship represented an investment of $20,000, and served them well for a period of fourteen years.

When Pastor Markward resigned the parish, January 31, 1909, he left a well organized congregation of 434 confirmed members. Rev. H. E. Clare became his successor, May 16, 1909, and his long pastorate was closed in death, December 26, 1918. It was during his pastorate that the present church building was erected. The cornerstone was laid May 30, 1915, and the church was dedicated December 12, 1915. It was built of Beaver sandstone and roofed with tile. It is Old English Gothic in design, and beautiful in its churchly appointments. It is connected with the old church, which was remodeled for Sunday School purposes and faced with

stone to conform to the new edifice. The total cost of the plant was about $75,000 on which a debt of $33,200 remained after the dedication. At the time of Pastor Clare's death the congregation numbered 528 confirmed members.

It was soon after this that the history of St. Paul's and the history of Calvary cease to be separate histories and become one. Up to this time St. Paul's had its own history. Though the Sunday School of Calvary was organized a few months before St. Paul's, St. Paul's, as a church was organized November 29, 1896, almost four months in advance of Calvary. The two churches remained separate during the split between the General Synod and the General Council, but in 1919, they decided to merge under the name of Calvary.

The ministers who served St. Paul's were : John F. Heckert, 1898-1910; William E. Bauer, 1910-1915; H. H. Wills, 1916-1919.

The pastorate of Rev. Wills terminated automatically with the merger, but he consented to serve the united congregation until 1920. The act of merger was effected December 17, 1919, when a new constitution was adopted and the name Calvary was assumed.

The solidity of the first church council of the merged church was a great factor in establishing the unity of the new organization. The old St. Paul's chapel was sold for $20,000 to the Y. M. C. A. June 26, 1920, and the net proceeds of $12,000 paid on the debt of Calvary.

Rev. C. B. Foelsch became pastor, August 1, 1920, and added a large number to the membership of the congregation. At the silver anniversary of Calvary a fund of $25,000 was raised of which $13,000 was expended in enlarging the Sunday School room.

Just when the future of this congregation loomed so rich in promise, Pastor Foelsch, because of failing health, found it necessary to resign November 30, 1927. At the farewell social for Dr. Foelsch, a congregational mission program was adopted and the Rev. John E. Slater was called as Associate Pastor of Calvary Church. During the summers of 1926 and 1927, while still a student in the theological seminary, Pastor Slater conducted surveys in the Wilkinsburg Manor area, with the result the Calvary's Mission, "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Advent," was organized January, 1929.

On April 15, 1928, the Rev. Luther A. Krouse became pastor of Calvary Church and continued to serve until January 3, 1932. During this pastorate the second major building improvement program was undertaken; renovation of the chancel, installation of the Rose Window and balcony, addition of the church tower, class-rooms for the Primary Department of the church school in Social Hall, costing $35,000.00. The congregation and the church school experienced steady growth.

On April 1, 1932, the Rev. Albert W. Steinfurth became Calvary's pastor. The depression years were upon the nation, but the congregation greatly increased in membership until it became the largest United Lutheran congregation in the Pittsburgh area. The property adjacent to the church, facing South Ave., was purchased.

On January 21, 1942, the Rev. Bernard F. Wise was called as Associate Pastor and assumed active duty in May, serving until May 28, 1944. On December 5, 1943, the congregation was again debt-free. December 24, 1945, an Electric Tower Broadcasting System was dedicated as a memorial to the young men of Calvary who served in World War II.

In 1946, the third major building improvement was completed: installation of new heating system and new electric wiring, enlarging and modernization of the kitchen in Social Hall, carpeting of the church and church school, costing $50,000.00

During this pastorate this congregation helped furnish the nuclei for the establishment of three new missions. The continued growth of the congregation and church school was requiring attention and so the fourth major building improvement program was undertaken in November, 1955; excavation for two new class-rooms thus utilizing all available space within the walls, renovation of the Primary Department and Social Hall, new tile floors, enlarged choir loft, all costing $60,000.00.

This latest improvement was dedicated April 26, 1956. Five sons of Calvary Church are in the active Gospel Ministry; one is in preparation in a theological seminary; one is waiting until his release from the Armed Forces so he can begin his preparation. Three choirs, the latest being the Children's Choir of fifty voices, help at the worship services. Dr. Steinfurth has served this congregation for more than 25 years.

Pastors who have served the merged congregation are: H. H. Wills, 1919-1920; C. B. Foelsch, 1920-1927; John E. Slater (associate), 1926-1927; Luther A. Krouse, 1928-1932; Albert W. Steinfurth, 1932 —.

Pittsburgh (E. E.) Christ's 1869

CREDIT for the founding of this church is given to Dr. Samuel Laird and Dr. William A. Passavant. The first services were held in the winter of 1868-1869 in St. Peter's German Church; then an English Lutheran Sunday School was organized in the old Lincoln Avenue School building. This school enrolled six teachers and forty scholars on the first day. The place of meeting was soon changed to Liberty Hall, corner of Penn and Center avenues. The first regular pastor of the mission was Rev. J. Q. Waters, who organized the congregation in the home of Daniel Hilty June 25, 1869, with twenty-three charter members.

The mission was launched under encouraging conditions, and the synod made an annual appropriation of $400 for the support of the pastor. A small building was purchased on Station street for $1,500, the first floor of which was converted into a chapel. Here a Sunday School of 125 children was soon gathered, but the quarters were so overcrowded and unsatisfactory that two lots on the corner of Broad and Sheridan streets, 60 x 150, were bought for $2,500 in the following year.

The cornerstone of a chapel was laid on the rear end of the new site April 25, 1872, and the building was dedicated by Pastor Waters November 28, 1873. It was a two-story brick chapel, 33 x 55, and cost about $7,000. It was a time of financial distress throughout the land, and Pastor Waters proved himself a fine leader in piloting the mission through its most trying days.

When he closed his pastorate, July 1, 1875, he was succeeded by Rev. L. H. Geschwind, who served from October 1, 1875 to February 1, 1879. Pastor Geschwind was a good missionary, but he labored under difficult conditions in Christ's Church, and could report but 93 members at the time of his resignation. The third pastor was Rev. Jacob S. Lawson, who served from 1879 to 1888. During his pastorate

the front part of the Broad street site was sold, and he was severely criticized for the action; but as a later pastor has said, if this had not been done the fine property on the corner of Margaretta and Beatty streets would never have been secured.

W. A. Passavant, Jr., was installed by his father as the fourth pastor, July 15, 1888. In less than three months he succeeded in adding 46 new members to the congregation and gathering $3,000 for the church debt. When he resigned to accept the position of Superintendent of General Council Home Missions, August 1, 1889, it was accepted with great regret. During the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Kuder that followed, 1889-1891, the mission reached the position of self-support.

On April 2, 1892, the Rev. Jacob Lawson Smith, D. D., began his pastorate and Christ's Church progressed under his spiritual leadership. Dr. Smith was a hard worker and received many new members into the church. The church holdings were increased by the purchase of the Winslow property at a cost of $4,500, and a generous fund was accumulated for the erection of a new church. On December 1, 1905, Dr. Smith terminated his pastorate of nearly fourteen years.

The new church became a reality during the pastorate of Rev. Earnest Anton Trabert, who served the congregation from September 1, 1906 to February 1, 1913. With a great faith in God, the congregation purchased the lot on the corner of Margaretta and Beatty streets for $14,000, and laid plans for the erection of a great church. Realizing that the times demanded something more than an ordinary structure, Pastor Trabert gave much time to the study of Lutheran architecture, and when the beautiful edifice was completed and dedicated May 8, 1910, it was regarded as one of the finest types of church building in the Pittsburgh Synod. The building which is 115 x 80 in size, is in Tudor Gothic style of architecture, and cost $70,000, but its present insurable valuation is $225,000.

The eighth pastor was Rev. Frank C. Oberly, who served from March 1, 1913 to July 12, 1914. During this short pastorate the church debt was reduced from $32,000 to $26,000. On April 1, 1915 Rev. John I. Shaud became the ninth pastor of Christ's Church and plans were made at once for the payment of the debt, and the mortgage burning was celebrated with much rejoicing February 13, 1921. Rev. Shaud was dearly loved by his congregation and his was the longest pastorate in the history of Christ's Church covering a period of more than eighteen years. During his pastorate the congregation purchased a parsonage in the Morningside section of East Liberty. On August 23, 1933, Pastor Shaud was taken in death at the wheel of his car, as he and Mrs. Shaud were leaving on their vacation.

The tenth pastor was Rev. Elmer A. Ortner, D. D., who served from February 14, 1934 to May 1, 1941. A beautiful marble altar was dedicated to the memory of Pastor Shaud on December 8, 1935.

Following Pastor Ortner's resignation, a period of ten months' vacancy intervened, until March 1, 1942 when Rev. John M. Nycum, Jr., became the eleventh pastor of Christ's Church. A number of improvements have been made to the church building, the most recent being the installation of new electrical service, panel boards and light dimmer. A lot adjacent to the church was recently purchased and is used for parking facilities. The week of June 18, 1944 to June 25, 1944 was the occasion for the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Christ's Church, when special services were held.

Christ's Church has always been a mission-minded congregation, responding generously to all benevolent appeals of the church. The Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, Lemington Avenue, is a daughter congregation of Christ's Church.

A consecutive list of pastors is as follows: J. Q. Waters, 1869-1875; L. H. Geschwind, 1875-1879; J. S. Lawson, 1879-1888; W. A. Passavant, Jr., 1888-1889; H. J. Kuder, 1889-1891; J. L. Smith, D. D., 1892-1905; E. A. Trabert, D. D., 1906-1913; F. C Oberly, 1913-1914; John I. Shaud, 1915-1933; Elmer A. Ortner, D. D., 1934-1941; John M. Nycum, Jr., 1942 —.

Pittsburgh Epiphany 1910

THE work of establishing this congregation was begun by the General Council of the Pittsburgh Synod in the spring of 1909. Rev. R. G. Rosenbaum conducted the organization. The missionary superintendent rented a frame chapel on the corner of Lemington Avenue and Montezuma Street from the Methodists and conducted the first service June 20, 1909.

Mr. Charles Fuhr took an active part in the organization of the Sunday School which was organized with 20 scholars. Student A. T. Michler spent the summer of 1909 in the field, and Student W. A. Fluck the summer of 1910.

The Methodist chapel was then bought for $3,500 and here the congregation worshipped for a number of years. The Episcopalians shared the chapel with the Lutherans for a time, but their organization failed. The officers of the temporary organization, in conjunction with the missionary superintendent, extended a call to Rev. Ira M. Wallace, Ph. D. He became the first regular pastor of the mission October 23, 1910. The formal organization of the church took place January 8, 1911, when a constitution was adopted. Twenty-nine members signed this document. Pastor Wallace served the mission until January 11, 1920.

The Rev. I. N. Dundore was then called to the pastorate and labored in this field a little more than two years. During that time many improvements were made in the building, organization, and the general progress of the church was very good.

After the resignation of Rev. I. N. Dundore, the Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, the Rev. Dr. J. Elmer Bittle, acted as pastor of the congregation.

In February, 1923 Dr. Bittle began communication with the Rev. A. C. Waldkoenig of Baltimore, Md. and arrangement was made to visit the congregation on March 4, 1925 at which time the services of the day were conducted by the visiting pastor. On March 18 a call was given which was accepted on Easter Sunday. The first service as pastor was preached on May 28, 1923.

It became apparent almost immediately that a new location and church must be secured. Four lots on the corner of Lemington and Paulson Avenues were purchased in 1925. Building operations began March 25, 1928; Dr. G. E. Swoyer preached the sermon on that occasion. Rev. John I. Shaud preached the sermon on the occasion of the Cornerstone Laying in July, 1928. Dr. Ellis B. Burgess preached the sermon on Dedication Day in March, 1929.

Dr. John H. Myers, Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, had oversight and acted as counsel to the pastor and congregation. His desire for Epiphany's success prompted zeal, and labor, — all to the Glory of God.

The church is of Gothic design, of stone construction, and has a three story wing attached. The Art Glass Windows tell the story of the Life of Christ in 18

panels placed in chronological order. The furnishings are of dark oak and all of Gothic design. In 1940 the pipe organ was dedicated.

The Church has been blessed by many loyal hearts and willing hands. Young people's activities have been the keynote of success. Two morning services are conducted. The only Sunday evening service in Pittsburgh's Lutheran Churches is conducted.

The present Pastor, Dr. A. C. Waldkoenig, has served the congregation for the past 33 years from 1923 to 1956.

Epiphany has one son in the ministry, the Rev. Gilson C. Waldkoenig. Another son, Frank Seilhamer, is a student at Gettysburg Seminary. Three more sons of the congregation have the ministry in contemplation.

Ministers who have served Epiphany are: I. M. Wallace, Ph. D., 1910-1920; I. N. Dundore, 1920-1922; A. C. Waldkoenig, S. T. D., 1923 —.

Pittsburgh First English 1837

(See Plate 31)

AMONG the first settlers to take up lands about the Forks of the Ohio were a number of Germans. The majority of these early Germans were Reformed, but the presence of a number of Lutherans among them is evidenced by the fact that the Unaltered Augsburg Confession is specified in the original grant of building ground by the Penns, June 18, 1787, to the newly organized German Church.

According to the custom of the day, their church was organized as Reformed and Lutheran. Their first regular services were conducted by Rev. Johann Wilhelm Weber, a Reformed pastor, but in 1813 the congregation called Rev. Jacob Schnee, a member of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, as their pastor, and although the two succeeding pastors were Lutheran, the congregation preserved its status as a union church. The Lutherans made at least one strong effort to dissolve this union but failed. There was an earnest desire for both an English and a German Church in Pittsburgh, however, and this desire was gratified in 1837.

When the West Pennsylvania Synod met in Lewistown in 1836, a letter was received from Rev. Rosenmiller of Perrysburg, Ohio, in which he asked the synod to what extent it would aid him in founding an English Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh. After a discussion of the subject, Pastors Rosenmiller, Scharretts and Martin were named as "suitable persons" to begin the work. The sickness of some of these men interferred with their plans, and the task was assigned to Father Heyer of Somerset County.

In 1837 Father Heyer also organized the dissatisfied Germans of the Smithfield Street Church into the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church, now in connection with the Missouri Synod. It was not his intention to organize this second congregation at this time; but, when he was refused permission to preach to these Germans in the Union Church, he said to their pastor: "If I can't preach to Lutherans on the inside of their church, I can preach to them on the outside." Accordingly, it was done. The St. John's Lutheran Church on the North Side was also organized by him in the early part of 1838. Father Heyer possessed rare missionary judgment and foresight, as evidenced by his organization of a purely English Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh at that early day. He saw the coming of the day when English would be the dominant language of the Lutheran Church in America, and laid the founda-

tions of the historic congregation accordingly. The oldest English Lutheran congregation in western Pennsylvania is Hebron Church of Blairsville; First Church of Pittsburgh stands second. The most serious problem of First Church at the beginning was an acceptable place of meeting. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Unitarian Church, the old Market Street Court House, and a schoolhouse on the banks of the Monongahela River at Smithfield Street, served as houses of worship.

The Sunday School was organized at the same time as the church, beginning with five teachers and seven scholars. Both German and English were used in the instruction; and, when the Germans withdrew to form their own organization, five teachers and thirteen scholars remained on the roll. Other Sunday Schools were organized through the years in the suburbs of the city.

At a meeting of the Church Council, January 24, 1838, a committee was appointed to secure a building site, and another to secure a pastor. A plot of ground on the corner of Seventh Avenue and Miltenberger Alley was secured for $8,400, and the pastor called was Rev. Emanuel Frey who began his work November 14, 1838, but resigned because of ill health five weeks later.

The third pastor was Rev. John McCron, whose term of service extended from May 9, 1839, to November 9, 1842. The congregation secured a charter on March 11, 1840, and proceeded with characteristic devotion to the task of building a church. Pastor McCron made three trips to the East in order to collect $1,200, a large sum to invest in church extension in those days. The church was completed on schedule, and the building was dedicated by Drs. Charles Philip Krauth and Samuel S. Schmucker on October 4, 1840.

The successor of Pastor McCron was Pastor William H. Smith, who served from April 12, 1843, to May 14, 1844. He was a great admirer of Rev. William A. Passavant of Baltimore, and pressed his case so warmly that the Church Council determined to secure him as their next pastor, and a call was accepted by Dr. Passavant in June, 1844. For the express purpose of doing more effective mission work in Western Pennsylvania, he led the movement that resulted in the organization of the Pittsburgh Synod in this church on January 15, 1845; and so closely has this synod and First Church been associated through the life and labors of this great leader of men, it would not be possible to separate them in history. A visit by Dr. Passavant to Kaiserswerth, Germany, in 1846, gave him an introduction to that type of institutional work, which so absorbed his time and interest that he felt compelled to resign his parish on January 8, 1855.

The successor of Dr. Passavant, Dr. Charles P. Krauth, also filled a large place in the history of this congregation and of the synod. While pastor of First Church, Dr. Krauth occupied a front rank among the ministerial forces of the city. His services were in constant demand; and his appearance on special occasions always added to his popularity and to the prestige of First Church. It was at the encouragement of an eminent layman of First Church, Thomas H. Lane, that Dr. Krauth published his classic, "The Conservative Reformation." His pastorate continued from November 1, 1855, to September 12, 1859.

The next pastorate was that of Dr. Reuben Hill, January 1, 1860, to July 1, 1866. During this pastorate, a valuable lot on the corner of Penn Avenue and Ninth Street was secured, which proved to be a fine investment later on. The successor of Dr. Hill was Dr. Samuel Laird, who served the congregation through troubled times, May 1, 1867, to July 1, 1879. As he began his work the synodical controversy was just coming to a head, and First Church was quickly swept into the turmoil. A

section of the by-laws of the congregation forbade any minister becoming their pastor unless he was "a member of some synod in connection with the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States", and a litigation followed because Dr. Laird was not a pastor of the General Synod and certain members of the congregation demanded the enforcement of this by-law. This litigation was not settled until the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania had confirmed the decision of the Court of Allegheny County. After this final decision, forty members withdrew and organized Messiah Church, which finally disbanded in 1884, the greater part of the remaining members uniting with Trinity Church.

The next pastor was Dr. Edmund Belfour. During this period the present church on the corner of Grant Street and Strawberry Alley, was erected and dedicated. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on November 6, 1887, and the beautiful and churchly building dedicated to the praise of the church November 4, 1888. Dr. Samuel Laird preached the dedicatory sermon. The church is a Gothic stone structure, cruciform in design, the nave having a depth of 74 feet with an equal width in the transepts, providing a seating capacity of 500. On the northeast corner is a graceful spire 170 feet in height. The total cost of the ground and building was about $150,000. Since the dedication a number of beautiful memorials have been placed in the church, among which are the Black memorial window in the north transept, the Navity tryptich window in the rear of the nave, and new narthex windows, the Thorwaldsen font, placed by B. F. Weyman in loving memory of Dr. C. P. Krauth, and the rich chancel mosaics.

During the pastorate of Dr. George J. Gongaware, the congregation observed its seventieth anniversary on January 20, 1907, and at this time the publication of a congregational history was authorized. Accordingly, Mr. Thomas H. Lane, who had served on the Church Council from 1850 to 1907, was entrusted to collect the data and Dr. Gongaware compiled and published the history. After the resignation of Dr. Gongaware, the congregation was vacant until November, 1913, when Dr. T. O. Keister became pastor, and during his pastorate the church grew spiritually and numerically. After a vacancy of nearly a year, Dr. Charles P. McLaughlin took over his pastorate and served until March, 1925. During this time the Brotherhood was revived and the Women's Missionary Society was organized.

In March, 1926, Dr. A. J. Holl became the pastor, serving until May, 1947, the longest period of any pastoral service. A real renaissance took place during this period, when the basement of the church was converted into class rooms and a parish hall, weekly radio programs were introduced, which have continued unbrokenly for 30 years over Radio Station WJAS, without charge to the congregation. A general revival of activities and organizations took place. A Young Women's Missionary Society, the Coleman Mission Circle, was organized, and named for a congregation-supported missionary to India, Dr. Fred L. Coleman. During the year 1930, the Rev. Edward K. Rogers (now Secretary of Stewardship and Evangelism of the Pittsburgh Synod) served as assistant pastor. During the St. Patrick's Day flood of 1936, First Church served as a Red Cross unit, feeding 3,500 hot meals, 1300 gallons of coffee and 58,200 sandwiches to cleanup workers in the Golden Triangle. All other churches in the Triangle had suffered damages from the 46.2 flood waters.

During Dr. Holl's pastorate, the church celebrated its Centennial and a complete redecorating and improvement program was carried out. The General Chairman of the Centennial Committee was J. Boyd Duff, Jr., with Dr. David R. Sumstine serving as Program, Historical and Advisory Chairman. Two weeks of services began on January 3, 1937, and ended with a Thanksgiving Communion Service on

January 17, 1937, with a birthday dinner and congregational meeting on the anniversary date, January 15.

During this pastorate Rev. Wallace E. Fisher was called as assistant pastor and served two years, 1944-45.

Dr. Holl resigned because of ill health on May 25, 1947, and was succeeded by Dr. Robert W. Stackel, who served until he was called by the United Lutheran Church on June 30, 1955, to serve as Director of Evangelism of the ULCA.

During Dr. Stackel's ministry, Noonday Services for business people were introduced, beginning with a noon service of 25 minutes for men each week. These have continued for ten years, with steady growth. Noonday services for women were begun the following year, and have grown until during the Lenten Season, it is necessary to use the chapel with a public address system. Lunch is served both days as a convenience.

The Rev. Paul Pieper was called as assistant pastor in 1950, and served for two years until his enlistment as a navy chaplain.

The Couple's Bible Study Group was organized and had a remarkable growth. During this time it became necessary to enlarge the services of the church, and an 8:30 A. M. service on Sunday morning was added, which has proven helpful to those on odd working schedules. A third communion service was eventually added, at 4:30 in the afternoon.

In 1953 an extensive Renovations Program was completed at a cost of $85,000. This included a new entrance and stairway to the lower church, new kitchen, new classrooms and social rooms, sandblasting of the outside and new narthex windows.

In June, 1955, Dr. Harold R. Albert, the present pastor, was called, and began his pastorate on September 1, 1955. During these years the Golden Triangle had been experiencing a golden renaissance, and many new buildings and apartments had been built in the neighborhood of the church, so that the growth of the congregation was steady and active. The place of the downtown church in this great metropolis took on new importance, and plans were made, under Dr. Albert's leadership, to increase and enlarge the ministry of the church to include a weekday ministry of a variety to appeal to the throngs which pass the church daily, and to increase the staff to conduct adequately a ministry which includes all of Allegheny County.

During Dr. Albert's pastorate a Young Adults group was organized, whose members come from all denominations and all parts of the city, meeting each Sunday evening, and many week nights in fellowship and study. A Young Married Couple's Group was begun under Dr. Stackel's pastorate, and had remarkable growth, until in 1956 a Young Married Couple's Sunday School class was begun. Also in January, 1956, a complete remote control radio system and public address system was installed in the church in memory of Dr. A. J. Holl, and a public address system for the lower church was installed and presented in his memory by his son, Dr. Paul F. Holl.

In the fall of 1956 a Thursday Night School of the Church was inaugurated, offering classes for adults in Bible study, church history, doctrine, music, teaching, psychology, and reading for Christian growth. These schools are held in two semesters, fall and spring, and have an encouraging enrollment and interest.

A coffee hour immediately after the 11 o'clock service promotes fellowship and gives an opportunity to meet and introduce the many visitors who constantly attend this downtown congregation.

As a return for the gifted line of ministers who have served this congregation, the following young men have been sent out into the ministry: John Rugan, Asa H. Waters, J. H. W. Stuckenberg, Albert F. Siebert, William A. Passavant, Jr., Oscar Holmgren, G. Edward Krauth, George B. Holmes, J. Q. Waters, Franklin Richards, G. H. Gerberding, Detmar L. Passavant, J. L. Fischer, F. W. Barry, Samuel R. Frost, Walden M. Holl, and G. Warren Rigg, Jr.

A complete list of pastors serving the congregation is as follows: J. C. F. Heyer, 1837-1838; Emanuel Frey, November, 1838-December 1838; John McCron, 1839-1842; William H. Smith, 1843-1844; W. A. Passavant, 1844-1855; C. P. Krauth, 1855-1859; Reuben Hill, 1860-1866; Samuel Laird, 1867-1879; Edmund Belfour, 1880-1892; David H. Geissinger, 1893- 1907; George J. Gongaware, 1905-1913; T. O. Keister, 1913-1917; Charles P. McLaughlin, 1918-1925; A. J. Holl, 1926-1947; Robert W. Stackel, 1947-1955; Harold R. Albert, 1955 —.

Pittsburgh First Hungarian 1925

IN 1925 the pastor of the Cleveland East Side Hungarian Lutheran Church, Rev. Stephen Ruzsa, was sent out by the Board of American Missions to organize the Hungarian Lutherans in and around Pittsburgh. Through newspaper advertising it was announced that the Hungarian Lutherans would gather at the Forbes street St. John's Lutheran Church in April. At a second meeting of this group on April 24 it was decided to form a Hungarian Lutheran congregation. The sum of three thousand dollars was pledged. The corner building at 161 Hazelwood Avenue and Sylvan Avenue was purchased. Members signed notes on their homes to start the building of a church. The cornerstone was laid already in the fall of 1925.

Most of the charter members were plain Hungarian people who wished to hear preaching in their mother tongue. These people had given up the idea of returning to the mother country. Most of their children were shaping careers in American industry. Except for two craftsmen, the rest of the members were factory workers.

The congregation acquired a parsonage for $10,000. They put $38,000 into a church building. The indebtedness on this investment was paid off in 1948.

Through the displaced persons program a number of Hungarian refugees were settled in Pittsburgh. This congregation, through its pastor, was responsible for resettling more than 150 refugees in the Pittsburgh area. This was the reverse of the situation that existed in the 1930's, when there was a general exodus of membership back to Hungary.

Since 1946 services have been conducted in both Hungarian and English. The English service is at 10:00 A. M. and the Hungarian service at 11:15. Occasional services are also held in German. The Latvian Lutherans also hold their services in the chapel of the First Hungarian Church.

Pastors who have served this church are: Stephen Ruzsa (organizer), 1925-1927; Sandor Poloskey, 1927-1929; Andor M. Leffler, 1929-1934; Wolfgang Rettmann, 1935-1945; Paul Markovits, 1946 —.

Pittsburgh (Spring Garden) Grace 1888

THE beginnings of Grace Church are found in a little mission school established by the Presbyterians in 1871, and conducted by them for sixteen years. The number of Lutherans in the valley attracted the attention of Rev. W. P. Shanor, missionary superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, and his services there aroused such an interest that the Presbyterians gladly surrendered the field. The entire equipment of this school, including a fund of $60, was turned over to the new workers.

Pastor W. J. Finck took charge of the mission July 3, 1887, and was able to organize a congregation of 33 members, March 25, 1888. After a charter had been secured, the congregation was formally admitted to the Synod, August 25, 1888. Pastor Finck's ministry was greatly appreciated by the people of the valley, but he resigned on September 1, 1890. His successor was Rev. J. H. Delo, whose pastorate lasted only a few months because of ill health.

A long vacancy followed, during which the mission was placed with the newly organized Church Extension Society of Pittsburgh for development. The Society then made an appeal to the First Lutheran Church for workers to take charge of the Sunday School and nine of its young people responded.

"These persons labored with remarkable success, doing their work in a commonplace hall and in the face of trying environment beginning in 1893. Their ranks were recruited in 1894 by six additional members." In June 1895, the Rev. J. J. Brubeck became the pastor, and he re-organized the congregation which had well-nigh disappeared.

The Church Extension Society bought the lot on which the hall stood for $5,000 and plans were made to build. The cornerstone was laid November 1, 1896 and the new church dedicated January 31, 1897. It was built of frame and cost, including furniture, about $4,500 leaving a debt of $700. The funds for its erection were contributed largely by the members of First Church, who with its pastor, the Rev. David H. Geissinger, made the enterprise possible.

The next pastor was Rev. E. H. Daugherty, whose pastorate also was shortened by ill health. In the summer of 1901, a merger of Grace and St. James' was effected, and the united congregations were able to declare themselves self-sustaining. The Rev. G. Irving Lenker became pastor in November 1901, and the opening years of his pastorate were full of promise; then sickness once more laid a heavy hand upon the Spring Garden pastor, and the work of the church declined until only 125 members were enrolled. He tendered his resignation October 20, 1908, and removed to the south in the hope of recovering his strength. In its weakened condition the church once more appealed to the synod for aid, and was re-enrolled as a mission.

The next four years were a struggle for existence. Without a parsonage and a small membership, it was unable to support a pastor. In the fall of 1913, the Rev. R. G. Rosenbaum, the Missionary Superintendent of Synod, took temporary charge of the mission. About the same time, the Women's Missionary Society of the Pittsburgh Synod (General Council) began social work in the valley and rented a building which was named "Spring Garden Neighborhood House." A deaconess, Sister Rose Barbour, was placed in charge of the work. Many devoted Lutheran women became interested in its work and the entire community was soon to feel the spiritual uplift. On July 1, 1914, Rev. Rosenbaum became the pastor of the congregation, and it began to grow. During his pastorate, the church was renovated at a cost of $800. In June, 1920 the Neighborhood House was placed under the management of the Spring

Garden Board consisting of three members each from Synod, Women's Missionary Society, and Grace Church, a total of nine.

The coming of Rev. G. E. Swoyer to Spring Garden Valley January 19, 1919 meant much to the development of the field. During the first two years of his pastorate, such large numbers of new members were added to the church that self-support was again assumed. A campaign for funds for the Neighborhood House was conducted throughout the Synod, but due to the fact, that a similar appeal was made by the National Lutheran Council for world-wide service on the same Sunday, the results were disappointing.

However, a fine new lot costing $6,500 was purchased and much of the church debt paid. Grace Church became a beehive of Christian activity. Miss Leila Fuhrmann succeeded the deaconess and served for several years when she was followed by Miss Mary Schultz in 1924. The Junior Luther League, organized 1897 has long held a foremost place among the juniors in the Lutheran Church.

On January 1, 1924 the Rev. George J. Muller became pastor. During his pastorate, many improvements were made. The beginning was the erection of an annex to the church costing $3,000. Other improvements were the installation of a new pipe organ, remodeling and refurnishing the chancel, the placing of a stained glass memorial window in the large front window, a group of three bells in the tower and the altering of the pews to provide for a center aisle. Practically all of these gifts were made possible by members of the congregation. Pastor Muller's pastorate was the longest in the history of Grace Church but due to ill health, he retired from the ministry in May, 1948 and the congregation honored him by conferring upon him the title of pastor emeritus.

His successor was the Rev. Fredrick P. Nissen who assumed the pastorate October 1, 1948 coming from Portland, Oregon. Pastor Nissen served only thirteen months.

The Rev. Robert H. Armstrong was installed May 28, 1950. Two things marked his pastorate — a marked increase in contributions for both the local and general work of the church and the conversion of the basement into beautiful rooms for the Sunday School and other activities — the work being effected by the men of the congregation. During this time the Brotherhood was revived and became active in both local and general work of the church. Pastor Armstrong resigned September 30, 1955 to become pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, a mission congregation in Erie.

The Rev. Martin J. Roth was called from Christ Church, Wheeling, W. Va., and was installed October 23, 1955 by Pastor George E. Little, secretary of Synod. Dr. G. E. Swoyer, former pastor and now of Trinity, North Side, delivered the sermon. Within six months after Pastor Roth's arrival construction was begun on a split-level type parsonage on Homer Street. A rubber tile floor was laid in the nave of the church at a cost of $1700. A complete library of tower bell records was purchased by the members.

The pastors were, as follows: W. J. Finck, 1888-1890; J. H. Delo, 1891-1892; J. Q. Waters (supply), 1892-1893; J. J. Brubeck, 1895-1901; E. H. Daugherty, 1901; G. I. Lenker, 1901-1908; W. E. Bauer, 1909-1910; S. K. Herbster, 1910-1912; R. G. Rosenbaum, 1914-1918; G. E. Swoyer, 1919-1923; G. J. Muller, 1924-1948; F. P. Nissen, 1948-1949; R. H. Armstrong, 1950-1955; M. J. Roth, 1955 —.

Pittsburgh (Troy Hill) Grace 1893

THE origin of Grace Church dates back to 1889. During that year, Trinity Lutheran Church, Northside, Pittsburgh, was considering the possibility of sponsoring a home mission project. Trinity's Home Mission Committee learned of a number of Lutheran families in the territory of the then known "13th Ward of Allegheny, Pennsylvania". Upon investigation, Trinity's pastor, the Dr. J. G. Goettmen, and its Home Mission Committee selected what was later to be called "Troy Hill" as the territory for mission work.

The first step toward the formation of the mission church was a community survey. This was necessary in order to determine the number of Lutheran families in the area. For this work, the service of Miss Anna Brinkman, a member of Trinity Church, was secured. Miss Brinkman ably constructed a map of the Ward on which were located the numerous Lutheran and Prostestant families, and she reported that the only religious work "on the hill" was the maintenance of a small Episcopal Sunday School.

Trinity's Home Mission Committee began at once to recruit prospective Sunday School members. Reineman's Hall, located on the corner of Clark (now Claim) and Lowrie Streets, was rented for Sunday afternoon services. A corps of workers came from Trinity Church to assist in the leadership of the Sunday School and continued in that service for a period of about six years. January 12, 1890, the Sunday School was organized with 70 pupils.

The work of the Sunday School progressed so successfully that in the fall of 1892 the young people began to gather on Sunday evenings for fellowship meetings. The result of these meetings led to their sponsoring evening worship services. At first, the evening worship services were irregular, but within a little more than a year this project was more than a youth's organizational dream. In the early summer of 1893 Trinity Church secured a supply pastor, the Rev. Samuel T. Nicholas, who later was to become the first pastor of Grace Church.

Within one month after the arrival of the supply pastor, a special meeting was held in Reineman's Hall, in order to present to the people of Troy Hill the young pastor and the idea of organizing a mission congregation. The meeting proved successful and plans were made to canvass the Hill for charter members. November 12, 1893, Grace Mission was organized with forty-eight charter members.

Eight days after the organization of the Mission a constitution was adopted. At that same meeting two trustees were appointed and authorized to act with the pastor in the obtaining of a charter and in the purchasing of a church lot on the corner of Tinsbury and Hamilton (now Hatteras) Streets.

Meanwhile, the women of the church were meeting for mission study. The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized January 4, 1894.

The church lot was purchased in March, 1894, at a cost of $2800. During the ensuing months a financial drive was instituted, in order to build the first-floor unit of the church plant. The ground was broken for the $6900 unit in May, 1894, and the cornerstone laid July 15 of that year. The dedication service was October 6 of the same year.

The growth of the Mission was enhanced shortly after the first unit of the church plant was constructed by the transfer of the Pennsylvania railroad shops from Blairsville to Pittsburgh. Since the railroad company provided a "caller" for

their trainmen only in the 13th Ward, it was imperative that the company's employees live on the hill. As a result of this industrial change the church and Sunday School rolls were increased by more than one hundred families.

Four years after the construction of the first-floor unit, plans were laid to complete the second-floor unit. In spite of a $5000 mortgage on the first unit, the infant congregation decided to build the second unit without increasing the indebtedness. A financial drive was again authorized and the building plans proceeded. By dedication time the $8700 goal for the second unit was undersubscribed $2500. However, in spite of the tremendous financial strain on the small membership and through the able assistance of the Dr. H. H. Weber, Secretary of Church Extension (now Synodical Board of American Missions), subscriptions amounting to $3780 were obtained on Dedication Day.

Dedication Day was held February 19, 1899. Dr. Weber was the guest preacher for the day. The church records indicate that the place of worship was filled to capacity and that 400 pupils were in attendance at Sunday School.

With the church plant completed, attention was directed toward the spiritual growth of the congregation and the reduction of indebtedness. For ten years, Dr. Goettman and Trinity's Home Mission Committee had labored faithfully for the realization of their goal. During this time the Committee shared the greater part of the expenditures and leadership. However, they did not relinquish their ambition until the work was firmly realized. By January, 1901, the congregation became self-supporting.

The years that followed were financially difficult. To be a desired sister church in benevolent work and to maintain current upkeep proved to be a real struggle. Dedication Day found the church without an organ. It wasn't until June 24, 1906, that a $2500 pipe organ was dedicated, one-half of which was given by Andrew Carnegie. It took until the Twentieth Anniversary to burn the mortgage. On the other hand, the congregation experienced steady growth in membership. The confirmed membership climbed in numbers to 560 and the Sunday School to nearly 600.

World War I brought forth sacrifice in membership and spiritual attainments. Following the first world struggle, the church took on new life. The membership rose to 620. A $1650 steam-heating system was installed. A little later a parsonage was purchased at 1514 Lowrie Street and plans were made to build a new parsonage on the corner of Hatteras and Tinsbury Streets. The only carpet of the church proper was laid in 1923. During this period the membership went beyond the 700 mark, and the vision of the church was centered toward higher goals.

Then came the devastating effects of the depression years. The fond hopes of what could have been a strong church sank to a low ebb. In addition, the steeple was struck by lightning in 1930 and funds on hand for interior redecoration were used to remove the steeple. It took several additional years to gather sufficient funds, in order to have needed bricks repointed. The present parsonage was completed just prior to the depression. The general church indebtedness became a lingering illness until the mortgage burning in February, 1946.

At the close of the second world conflict a renewed church spirit is to be noted. A new constitution was adopted. Needed material improvements about the church became everyday conversation. There was even talk of building a new church plant. Efforts were re-asserted in evangelism and stewardship.

It wasn't until 1949 that definite steps were undertaken to have the church plant renovated. In that year a new roof was obtained and the work of repointing

the bricks was begun. In the late fall of the following year the men of the church redecorated the interior of the church. In 1951 funds were raised for a new gas furnace. Through organizational endeavor the windows of the church proper were releaded and a block tiling placed throughout the first floor of the church. The next two years were ones directed toward the raising of funds for rewiring the church, installing of new lighting fixtures, and interior redecorating. The goal of these latter objectives was to be completed for the 60th Anniversary Celebration.

Meanwhile, intensive efforts in evangelism and stewardship were emphasized. For the first time in 59 years Grace Church shared its minimum benevolent apportionment, its Lutheran World Action quota, and the two-year goal for Christian higher education.

During the summer of 1955 extensive renovation work was done in the church proper. The chancel was completely refurnished from the communion rail to the altar. New paraments, dossal and carpeting were added. Dedication of the chancel was on Sunday, August 21, 1955.

The confirmed membership now is 531 and the communing membership is 426. A strong, well attended Sunday School plus a full slate of active auxiliaries and organizations round out our congregational life.

The following pastors have served Grace: Samuel T. Nicholas, D. D., 1893-1902; William H. Nicholas, 1902-1908; Paul Froelich, 1908-1909; Wilmer A. Hartman, 1909-1914; Samuel J. Himes, Ph. D., 1914-1919; Jacob C. Nicholas, D. D., 1919-1928; Elbert E. Oney, 1929-1944; Robert E. Olson, M. A., 1944-1950; Lester D. Keasey, Ph. D., 1951-1955; J. Allen Snyder, M. Ed., 1955 —.

Pittsburgh (N. S.) Holy Trinity 1888

THE congregation was born of the missionary zeal of an established congregation in Allegheny, Pa. St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Manchester District had established a preaching station in the Woods Run area. In the Spring of 1888 it was decided to erect a building. Shortly thereafter, the Reverend Mr. Schuh of the Joint Synod of Ohio assisted in the organization of the new congregation. Twelve families were dismissed from St. Paul's to serve as the nucleus of the Woods Run Church. A constitution was drawn up August 19, 1888 and the Deutsch-Evangelische Lutherische Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, began its life. A legal charter was obtained October 6, 1888. The first pastor, Ernst Goessling, served until his death, January 12, 1912. In 1894 the congregation withdrew from the Joint Synod of Ohio, uniting with the Ohio Synod. A part of its membership left and formed another Lutheran congregation a few blocks away. Following six years of synodical inactivity, the congregation joined Iowa Synod in 1910 and kept this relationship for seven years. For the first 15 years of her life, Trinity (Woods Run) maintained her own parochial school.

Pastor Otto Proehl served the congregation from September 1, 1912 to December 1, 1916. The church was without a minister until July 1, 1917 when the Reverend Mr. F. J. Fuerst accepted a call. Under his care the congregation prospered, and was admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod in 1921, in which Body it has kept its membership to the time of this writing. A member of the Central Conference, Trinity was transferred on its own request to the German Conference in 1923 where it continued until its return to the Central Conference in 1937.

The Rev. Mr. C. F. Frank succeeded Pastor Fuerst who resigned in 1921. The brief stay of Pastor Frank (until 1922) saw a notable growth in the Sunday School. From 1923 to 1930 the congregation was served by the Reverend Mr. F. W. E. Bockelmann, D. D. In these years the physical property of the congregation was remodeled and improved. The depression years were weathered under the leadership of the Reverend Mr. John H. Deutschlander, whose ministry was marked particularly by his successful work with the young people. Following his resignation in 1935, Pastor O. E. Bluehdorn was called to the congregation January 1, 1936. During the 22 months of the ministry the congregation opened her doors as a refuge to flood vicitms, replaced the roof with a fire-proof one, and began the installation of a large Kimball pipe organ.

The first English pastor was called February 1, 1938, the Reverend John M. Nycum. He remained with the congregation for four years, during which time extensive renovations and property improvements were completed. Services in German were discontinued. Initial steps to purchase a new parsonage were taken. Congregational ties with the Central Conference and with the Pittsburgh Synod were strengthened. William H. Keil began his services as the congregation's pastor June 1, 1942.

Thirty years prior, the congregation under the leadership of Pastor Otto Proehl had begun a study of re-location. With more than fifty years of experience behind it, Trinity Church was prepared and ready for new achievements. Two new stops were added to the organ. Side aisles were provided. The search for another parsonage resulted in finding an ideal location for moving the whole congregation.

In the summer of 1943 about three fourths of an acre, including a large mansion, was purchased without outside financing. On August 22, 1943 the corporate name of the congregation was changed to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, North Side, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The old property was sold by parcel, the building itself being purchased by the Memorial Park Community Church of Allison Park, who moved the building to that place where it has since housed that congregation. Since that time, September 1944, Holy Trinity Congregation is at 3556 Shadeland Avenue, Pittsburgh 12, Pennsylvania.

At this location for eight years the remodeled mansion housed the Pastor, the School, and the congregation at worship. In 1948 the congregation made a radical change in its program of religious education. Seeking more teaching time under better conditions, Holy Trinity transferred its school for children from Sunday mornings to Saturdays, the sessions running from 9:00 o'clock A. M. to noon, and caring for children to age 15. Adults and Young People utilize Sunday hours for their educational aids.

In 1949 Salary Aid from the Pittsburgh Synod was accepted and used through 1954 when the congregation re-assumed full responsibility for its pastor's care. The cornerstone for the House of God was laid October, 1951 and the dedication of the building was celebrated April 20, 1952. Four years later, less than one half of an indebtedness of more than $50,000 remains. The congregation has gone on record as rejecting any money-making activity, nor in recent years has it had to resort to any campaign for pledges or solicitation for funds, relying on the willing response of its members to the needs or causes presented.

Sketches are on hand for further building which includes a parsonage, a parish house, and the extension of the present House of God by two bays. The property

as of January 1, 1956 is appraised at about one eighth of a million dollars. Two services are held weekly for the convenience of its 256 confirmed members, 250 of whom communed in the past year. The stability of the congregation is enhanced by the fact that it is situated in the center of one of the more permanent districts of Pittsburgh.

The following pastors have served Holy Trinity: E. Goessling, 1888-1912; O. Proehl, 1912-1916; F. J. Fuerst, 1917-1921; C. F. Frank, 1921-1922; F. W. E. Bockelmann, 1923-1930; J. Deutschlander, 1930-1935; O. E. Bluehdorn, 1936-1937; J. M. Nycum, 1938-1942; W. H. Keil, 1942 —.

Pittsburgh (Beechview) Holy Trinity 1907

MISSION work was begun in this community in the summer of 1906. A canvass indicated that there was an opening for the Lutheran Church, but no suitable meeting place could, at first, be found. An empty room was finally secured in a building erected as a hotel; here the temporary organization was effected October 14, 1906. Rev. D. R. Sumstine supplied the mission for a few Sundays, and Dr. George M. Heindel became the first regular pastor October 28, 1906. Under his leadership the mission developed so that he was able to effect a permanent organization February 3, 1907.

The constitution recommended by the General Synod was adopted. A portable chapel was secured for the use of the mission and forty five persons were present April 27, 1907, when it was used for the first time. This chapel was dedicated May 12, 1907. The congregation was designated as the Young People's Mission of the Pittsburgh Synod and supported as such for a number of years.

Dr. Heindel resigned December 1, 1909; he was succeeded by Rev. W. Blair Claney. During this pastorate the present church was erected. Two lots on Beechview Avenue were bought for $2,350. On these a neat chapel was erected at a cost of $13,000. The cornerstone was laid May 21, 1911. Pastor Claney dedicated the church October 22, 1911. During the pastorate of Rev. W. K. Himes, who succeeded Pastor Clancey, the church at Franklin Road was served by the pastor of Holy Trinity. This arrangement was given up, however, when it did not work to the advantage of either congregation.

Rev. William A. Berkey began his long pastorate in 1919. The debt on the church was soon paid. No changes or alterations worthy of note have taken place in the last thirty seven years.

Ministers who have served this church are: G. M. Heindel, D. D., 1906-1909; W. B. Claney, 1910-1913; W.K.Himes, 1913-1918; W. A. Berkey, 1919 —.

Pittsburgh Memorial 1883

UNTIL 1871 there was no Protestant Church on East street between North avenue and the rural section far beyond the city line. A union Sunday School was opened by other denominations in the old Reserve Township schoolhouse, but it was soon given up. It was then reorganized by Mr. Dummet, a teacher of the public school, under whom it gave promise of success. Pastor G. H. Gerberding then learned of this school, and held occasional services for it on Sunday evenings until 1881. Rev. W. P. Shanor, his successor in West View Parish, followed up his work, but found the schoolhouse unsuitable for his work.

This led to a meeting in the home of Jacob Craig October 11, 1882, when it was decided to make an effort to build a church. A rough sketch of the proposed church was presented and approved. The following statement is taken from the Memorial Church Record: "Mr. C. C. Heckel informed the friends that he had purchased a lot, which he would lease to the church building committee for church purposes for six years without any interest, rent or tax, and would sell at the end of that time, or at such time before as the congregation to be organized might desire, the front half of the lot at half the cost of the whole lot. His offer was gratefully accepted."

Mr. Craig continued to serve as treasurer, and Mrs. C. C. Heckel, Mrs. C. A. Stimple and Miss Annie Heckel set out with subscription books, and were quite successful in collecting funds. Ground was broken for the erection of a church in November, 1882. The unplastered church was used for the first service February 4, 1883, when Rev. Henry W. Roth preached in English and Rev. G. A. Wenzel in German. Communion was administered March 18, 1883, when twenty two persons presented themselves for membership. The congregation was regularly organized April 9, 1883. The church was dedicated by Pastor Shanor November 18, 1883.

This one story church was raised in the summer of 1887, and a basement built beneath for the accommodation of the growing Sunday School. Failing health led to the resignation of Pastor Shanor in 1888, and he was succeeded by Pastor W. J. Fink, who served from 1888 to 1893. After supplying the church for several months, Dr. Edmund Belfour consented to accept a call, and served Memorial from June 1, 1893 to November 1, 1919. This pastor at once began to wear the clerical robe and to observe all the festival seasons of the church.

On April 18,1901, a two manual pipe organ, presented by Andrew Carnegie, was dedicated by the pastor. In 1897 and 1902 extensive repairs and improvements were made. A good brick parsonage was erected in 1906 at a cost of $5000. The pastor moved into this home on October 19, 1906. Dr. G. F. Gehr supplied the congregation for several months after the resignation of Dr. Belfour, accomplishing much in the way of developing the financial strength of the discouraged church.

The next regular pastor was Rev. Hugo L. Dressler, who served less than a year, resigning because of sickness in his family. Shortly before he left the parish, the church was rededicated, having been renovated and improved at a cost of $5,500. Another short pastorate was that of Rev. W. F. Pfeifer, whose term of service began on November 1, 1921, and closed on August 1, 1923. The development of a strong Brotherhood was the feature of this pastorate. Rev. O. E. Bluehdorn served the church from January 1924 to June 1925.

Dr. Walter L. Winner accepted a call to serve as pastor on July 1, 1925. The congregation kept growing and the next important step was taken on July 21, 1929,

under the guidance of Dr. Walter L. Winner, when it was decided to buy two lots on East St., Haslett St. and Vantassel St., for the sum of $14,500. In two and a half years this property was paid. During the years it had become apparent that the old frame building could not forever serve to the best advantage. Memorial's new house of worship was dedicated to the glory of His name on March 11, 1951 at a cost of $132,500. The following year it was decided to buy a new parsonage on Violet St., and the pastor with his family moved in on November 18, 1952. In eleven months the congregation, with the help of many friends, was able to burn the mortgage on the parsonage. Now the attention was focused on the church debt. Again with the generous help of friends the congregation was able to witness another great achievement in burning the mortgage on November 27, 1955. Thus in a little over four and a half years the church was again free of debt.

The pastors of Memorial Church have served in the following order: W. P. Shanor, 1883-1888; W. J. Fink, 1888-1893; Edmund Belfour, D. D., 1893-1919; G. F. Gehr, D. D. (supply), 1919-1920; H. L. Dressler, 1920-1921; W. F. Pfeifer, D. D., 1921-1923; O. E. Bluehdorn, 1924-1925; Walter L. Winner, D. D., 1925 —.

Pittsburgh (Morningside) Messiah 1908

THIS church is located in a resident section of the city known as Morningside. Attention was first called to the field by resident members of Mt. Zion Church; and the first service was held in the home of Julius Wunderlich in the fall of 1907. An unoccupied school room was then secured, and services were held there every Sunday morning. Rev. D. R. Sumstine and Student Samuel Smith served as supply pastors. A preliminary canvass had been made by Pastors Wiles and Reller, but a second canvass was made by Student Smith, and Dr. J. E. Bittle was able to organize the congregation September 13, 1908, with 29 members, 19 of whom came from Mt. Zion.

Morningside and Homestead were connected as a parish, and Rev. D. U. Bair served as the first pastor, May 1, 1909, to July 1, 1910. The second pastorate was equally short, Rev. D. E. Rupley serving from November 1, 1910, to May 15, 1911. During this pastorate a lot was purchased, on which the portable chapel of the Advisory Board was placed and dedicated.

Rev. John G. Koser served the mission in connection with East Carnegie from May 1, 1912, to April 1, 1913, when it was made a separate parish under the care of Rev. E. F. Dickey. Under the leadership of Pastor Dickey the present church was secured. The cornerstone was laid October 10, 1915, and the church dedicated April 2, 1916. The church was constructed of brick and stone, and furnished in churchly taste at a total cost of $12,500. During the following year a pipe organ was installed and dedicated. This was the first of the General Synod congregations to make use of the clerical robe in public services.

The congregation became self-sustaining by the end of 1945 and has steadily moved forward. The church will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1958.

The following pastors have served here: Supplies, 1908-1909; D. U. Bair, 1909-1910; D. E. Rupley, 1910-1911; J. G. Koser, 1912-1913; E. F. Dickey, 1913-1916; D. B. Lau, 1916-1918; S. G. Dornblaser, D. D., 1919-1922; W. L. Winner, 1923-1925; E. L. T. Engers, 1925-1942; Paul A. Hoch, 1943-1945; Harvey M. Erb, 1945 —.

Pittsburgh Mt. Lebanon United 1925

IN the early twenties the Liberty Tubes or tunnels were completed and opened to traffic. This was the doorway to the "South Hills" of Pittsburgh. Many people moved into this area. Land that had been pastures and fields became a growing residential community. This growing community was recognized as a promising mission field. In June of 1924, when Synod met in Indiana, the Home Mission Board was instructed to purchase a lot for a church site in this growing community. The Home Mission Board called Rev. Harvey E. Harman to develop this field.

Pastor Harman accepted the call to Mt. Lebanon and assumed his duties on January 1, 1925. First services were held in one of the rooms of Washington School. Fifteen people attended the first meeting on January 11, 1925. The Sunday School was started a week later with three classes: adults, juniors, and primary. Sunday School hymnals were donated to the school by the Bethany Lutheran Church of Braddock where J. P. Harman, son of Mt. Lebanon's pastor, was the minister. By February 22, 1925, after a month of activity the membership increased to thirty three from the original fifteen. At a meeting March 1, 1925 it was decided that the new church would be called The Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church.

Dr. Ellis B. Burgess, president of synod, and Dr. J. Elmer Bittle, missionary superintendent, made a survey of Mt. Lebanon and decided that the most practical location would be on Washington Road, the main thoroughfare of the community. The John Long property at the corner of Washington Road and Academy Avenue was purchased for $29,750. The house on the property was to be used as a parsonage and a temporary place of worship.

Rev. Harman, who had gathered the people together, was officially called as pastor of the newly created church May 31, 1925. On August 5, 1925 the church charter was granted. At a congregational meeting December 13, 1925 the constitution and by-laws were accepted.

After the sudden death of Pastor Harman May 2, 1926 Pastor Elbert E. Oney began his pastorate. In 1927 a drive was initiated to build a Sunday School building and use it both as a Sunday School and church until such time as the church proper could be constructed. The top figure for this building was set at $50,000. Ground breaking for this Sunday School unit was held March 6, 1927. Mrs. Louise Schuster, who was eighty years old at the time and the oldest member of the congregation, as well as the one hundredth member of the church, officially broke ground. The cornerstone was laid May 15 ,1927. First services were held in the basement of this building on August 7, 1927. Constructed of Indiana limestone, and of Gothic design, the new church was dedicated October 16, 1927.

When Pastor Oney resigned in 1929, he was succeeded by Pastor Royal E. Lesher. During his six year pastorate the church debt was reduced to $67,850. The congregation was permitted to assume self-support. The period of self-support, however, was short. The great financial crash of the early thirties reduced the church's revenue. It was necessary to borrow money to meet interest payments. To keep the church out of further financial difficulties and to keep it functioning the Church Extension Society of Pittsburgh aided with a loan of $3,500; and the Board of American Missions granted salary assistance.

On December 1, 1935 Rev. Peter Brath was installed by the Rev. Henry Bagger, president of synod. The church was in financial difficulties; and at a congregational meeting on January 8, 1936 there was considerable discussion about disposing of the

church property and seeking a more advantageous location. At a special meeting of the congregation held September 18, 1936 the council was given authority to lease that portion of the property occupied by the parish house to the Atlantic Refining Company. Due however, to the complaints of the people in the neighborhood, this plan was abandoned. At this time the church made application to become a mission church. Church membership had fallen to 205 and the debt was raised to $69,220.

Pastor J. Bender Miller started his pastorate at Mt. Lebanon October 15, 1939. Again in 1940 the question of leasing part of the property to the Atlantic Refining Company came up. Again because of the objections raised by the people of Mt. Lebanon the project was dropped for good.

In November, 1941 Pastor Bowman, financial advisor of the American Mission Board of the United Lutheran Church, met with the church council to talk over the financial situation. The plan proposed worked so well that by January 1, 1945 the church was again self-supporting.

The congregation grew. In 1945 the pews were rearranged to make additional seating possible. A planning committee began working on a new church project. A lot on Washington Road at the junction of Cochran Road was purchased for $25,000. This lot measured 270 feet by 317. In November of 1950 an opportunity occurred to purchase additional footage on this lot. In order that a good opportunity would not be missed a small group of men made the purchase and donated the land to the church.

At a meeting of the Building Executive Board on December 7, 1953 it was agreed to sell the church which they had to the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church with the proviso that the facilities of the church be shared until the new church was ready. This plan of joint use did not work out well, however, so that the church had to move to the Jefferson School Auditorium until the educational unit of the new church would be ready.

Original bids for the new construction ran so high the plans had to be modified. This brought about a delay, but on September 19, 1954 the ground-breaking ceremony took place. Pastor J. Paul Harman, son of the first pastor, was the principal speaker. By December 26, 1954 one of the rooms in the building had been walled in, makeshift heading facilities were added, and the Luther League held the first service in the new church. Divine worship service was held February 23, 1955.

On December 9, 1956 a final meeting with the architect and contractor completed plans for the building of the sanctuary. The total cost of the building without furniture was $325,000. A bond issue of $200,000 was floated to meet the cost of the building. On February 17, 1957 a combined ground-breaking service for the new church building and the dedication of the church school building was held.

The sanctuary was completed and dedicated late in 1957.

Pastor Miller announced his resignation as pastor to become effective March 15, 1957. On September 15, 1957 Pastor Charles A. Hackenberg of Toledo, Ohio, was installed as pastor of Mt. Lebanon.

Pastors who have served Mt. Lebanon United are: Harvey E. Harman, 1925-1926; Elbert E. Oney, 1926-1929; Royal E. Lesher, 1929-1935; Peter Brath, 1935-1939; J. Bender Miller, 1939-1957; Charles A. Hackenberg, 1957 —.

Pittsburgh Mt. Olivet 1899

MT. Olivet is located in that section of Pittsburgh known as Spring Hill. The large number of German children on the hill led Mrs. C. B. King and Mrs. Mecklish of St. Mark's to establish a Sunday School on July 1, 1894, when 28 children were present. This school was cared for as a parish mission of St. Mark's for a while, and this placed the well known financial powers of the pastor of St. Mark's at their disposal. Pastor King secured a lot on the corner of Rhine street and Robinson Road for the mission. A frame chapel was erected at a cost of $4,000. This chapel was dedicated April 21, 1895. Sunday School work was continued in this chapel until time came to establish a church organization. The church was organized as Mt. Olivet on January 11, 1899. The name Mt. Olivet was suggested by Mrs. L. Sheffer, a member of St. Mark's church.

Dr. King conducted regular services until July 10, 1899, when H. C. Michael took charge. For a time the congregation was connected with Wilmerding; then with North Zion; then with St. James'; then with Emsworth, and did not receive the entire time of a pastor until 1921. The first resident pastor was F. C. Frommhagen, during whose short pastorate a parsonage was erected at a cost of $8,000.

In 1923 Mt. Olivet made her first and only contribution to the ministry. Albert G. Fischer was ordained in 1923 and is at present serving the Avonmore charge in the Pittsburgh Synod.

From 1922 to 1923 Pastor H. C. Reller was supply Pastor. The Reverend Charles E. Held laboured here from September 1, 1923 to February 1, 1926. During this period the congregation became self-supporting. The Reverend Ludwig Beisecker accepted a call in March, 1926 and relinquished his work on January 31, 1929. During his pastorate all the old windows were replaced by the stained glass ones now in use.

In the beginning of 1929, under the guidance of Supply Pastor John Arnold, the chancel was re-arranged. Former members will remember that the chancel was on the Walz Street side of the church originally.

Pastor Russell Steininger came on June 15, 1929. During these depression years there were quite a few financial difficulties but through the generosity of Pastor Steininger these difficulties were straightened out. At that time we had a large group of young people. About 25 of these young people formed the choir.

The Reverend Elmer P. Wentz was installed as pastor on December 23, 1934. He was the first pastor to both vest himself and the choir. Chancel paraments as well as a new altar were donated. Pastor Wentz was called to Butler in 1942 serving this parish for 8 years in which time the benevolent program of the church was strengthened.

The Reverend A. W. Stremel supplied from October 1942 until January 1, 1943. Pastor Hans Hohnsbein was then called and installed January 3, 1943. During this pastorate quite a bit of repairing and remodeling was done both to the church and the parsonage. The church building was covered with inselbric. Pastor Hohnsbein was called to New York and left in February, 1947.

The Reverend Paul J. Trout served from April, 1947 to February, 1955. During his pastorate a Hammond Electric Organ was purchased and a new heating system installed, the mortgage on the parsonage burned, and the congregation became a parish in itself.

The present Pastor is the Reverend Stephen Stofcheck, Jr. He began his work on May 1, 1955. Many repairs were made to the church proper with remodeling

both on the interior and exterior. A very fine Weekday Church School has been instituted and the church continues to grow spiritually through the grace of God.

At present a dream has come on the horizon with the institution of a Property Fund Campaign to purchase lots for a new church building. May the Grace of God enable the people of this church to fulfill this dream so that Christ and His Church might be extended.

The following pastors have served this charge: C. B. King, 1899; H. C. Michael, 1899-1900; C. A. Boory, 1900-1901; G. B. Weaver, 1901-1905; Joseph Keller, 1905; Supplies, 1905-1909; W. K. Himes, 1909; Wilbur C. Mann, 1909-1921; F. C. Frommhagen, 1921-1922; H. C. Reller (supply), 1922-1923; Charles E. Held, 1923-1926; Ludwig Beisecker, 1926-1929; John Arnold, 1929; Russell Steininger, 1929-1934; Elmer P. Wentz, 1934-1942; A. W. Stremel (supply), 1942-1943; Hans Hohsbein, 1943-1947; Paul J. Trout, 1947-1955; Stephen Stofcheck, Jr., 1955 —.

Pittsburgh (E. E.) Mt. Zion 1888

THE beginning of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church dates back to the year 1888. An examination of the records of the congregation reveals its organization date as March 18, 1888, with 24 members in Arsenal Bank Hall, by the Rev. I. Irvine, Missionary President of the Pittsburgh Synod.

The congregation was chartered under the name of the Lawrenceville English Lutheran Church. Rev. Chas. A. Britt served the congregation from January 6, 1889, to November 1, 1890. During this pastorate the ground at 44th and Sherrod Streets was purchased. The Rev. C. P. Harrah assumed the pastorate January 1, 1891. and during this pastorate the first story of the new church was erected. This was dedicated March 19, 1893. Pastor Harrah was called to his reward before he could preach his first sermon in the new church. His death occurred April 23, 1893.

The Rev. H. N. Follmer became pastor October 8, 1893. Under his care the church became self sustaining in 1896, and the new church was completed and dedicated in December of 1898. During the pastorate of Rev. Follmer, 40 members were released to help found Christ Lutheran Church of Millvale.

From 1908 to 1916, the Rev. T. B. Yeakley served as pastor. During this time the church was remodeled and again a group of members were dismissed to help establish the Messiah Lutheran Church in Morningside.

The Rev. David Maxwell began his pastorate in 1925, and under his pastorate in October, 1927, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church merged with Luther Memorial Church to form the Mt. Zion Lutheran Church of E. E. Pittsburgh, Pa. Luther Memorial Church was organized in 1916 by the Rev. J. E. Bittle, the Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod. The Rev. Frank E. Smith was the only pastor of Luther Memorial Church, and when he resigned the above merger took shape.

The merged congregations took the properties of both and then sold the 44th Street property for the better located So. Evaline Street property and worship was conducted from that time forth at the present site. On September 1, 1935, the Rev. John J. Myers became pastor of Mt. Zion and served his pastorate well and faithfully for a ten year period. During this time the church building was completely renovated and much progress was reported.

On December 1, 1945, the Rev. R. C. Richter was called to be pastor and served the congregation to December 31, 1953. During this pastorate the 91 year old

building was condemned as unsafe, and once more, with the help of the mission board that gave the congregation its first start, Mt. Zion was able to erect a new and most beautiful church building, which was completed and dedicated on May 13, 1951. The Rev. William W. Stremel became pastor March 7, 1954. In 1956 a new parsonage was erected on the church property adjoining the church. The congregation serves a downtown area and looks forward to ever greater work for Jesus Christ the Lord of all.

Pastors who have served Mt. Zion are: B. E. Shaner (supply), 1888; C. A. Britt, 1889-1890; C. P. Harrah, 1891-1893; H. N. Follmer, 1893-1901; C. P. Wiles, 1901-1908; T. B. Yeakley, 1908-1916; H. E. Harman, 1916-1925; D. E. Maxwell, 1925-1935; John J. Myers, 1935-1945; R. C. Richter, 1945-1953; W. W. Stremel, 1954 —.

Pittsburgh (N. S.) Mt. Zion 1876

(See Plate 32)

MT. Zion had her beginning in services held in a schoolhouse by the Rev. George H. Gerberding while he was a student in Seminary. Dr. W. A. Passavant and other Lutheran pastors from the city assisted in a survey of the field. A half acre of ground on Franklin Road was purchased, subscriptions were solicited, and, in September 1875, ground was broken for a place of worship. The cornerstone was laid by Dr. Passavant on October 17, 1875, and by winter a Gothic frame building, fifty by thirty-two feet, was under roof. The church was not dedicated until December 14, 1879, when Pastor Gerberding was assisted by Dr. Passavant and Pastor Jonathan Sarver.

Rev. G. H. Gerberding having been ordained by authority of the Pittsburgh Synod on April 19, 1876, accepted a call to Calvary, Chartier's Creek. He was encouraged to organize a Sunday School here in Mt. Zion. He was reluctant to do so, since this was his childhood community. However, he consented and began services. On Octorber 1, 1876 a congregation of seventeen members was organized and the first communion celebrated. The charter was left open for one year by which time the communicant list had grown to thirty members. The first constitution was adopted on April 12, 1877. The Rev. Gerberding continued as pastor until April 17, 1881.

His successor was the Rev. William Pierce Shanor, who served the country churches of Pine Creek and Brandt's in connection with Mt. Zion. He gave himself so unsparingly to his parish that the Master called him Home after seven years of labor.

May 1, 1895, the Rev. Thomas Shannon Brown became pastor. Mt. Zion was now made a separate mission parish of the Pittsburgh Synod (General Council). At this time there were about fifty communicant members. The congregation paid $360 and the Synod $250 of the pastor's annual salary. The congregation became self-sustaining in 1902. Pastor Brown served Mt. Zion until February 15, 1909. His was a fruitful ministry and marked by a substanial growth in the congregation. The next pastorate was that of the Rev. John Howard Worth, beginning on July 4, 1906. Under his energetic leadership a great forward step was made in the life of the congregation. On October 19, 1910 the congregation voted to purchase the present church site for $4500.00. The cornerstone of the present Mt. Zion was laid on November 23, 1913. Here a beautiful stone edifice was erected at a cost of $36,000. The church was consecrated and dedicated to the Glory of God on June 21, 1914.

Pastor Worth relinquished his duties on May 1, 1915. The Rev. Paul H. Krauss was called and assumed the pastorate on September 4, 1915. Then came the call of Camp pastorate during World War I. From May 1918 to the termination of the pastorate on March 5, 1919, Pastor Krauss was serving as Camp Pastor or Navy Chaplain. The Rev. William P. Gerberding, son of Mt. Zion's first pastor, served very ably as a supply pastor while Pastor Krauss was absent from the parish. It was during this time that funds were collected for the pipe organ.

The Rev. Carl William Becker became Mt. Zion's eighth pastor on September 19, 1919. During his pastorate many improvements were made. Twelve art-glass windows were placed in the church; the pipe organ was installed and dedicated; plans were in process for the enlarging of the Sunday School; the membership had increased considerably. Then the congregation was saddened when on May 31, 1923, Pastor Becker died almost instantly in an automobile accident.

The Rev. Grover Elmer Swoyer was called and assumed the duties of the pastorate on September 1, 1923. Under his leadership the membership increased rapidly, making it necessary to increase the Sunday School quarters. The congregation purchased the adjacent property on which was a six room apartment, half of which was converted into Sunday School rooms. The total indebtedness at this time was upwards of $94,000, which was reduced to $60,000 before the pastorate ended. Three sons of the congregation were ordained into the Gospel Ministry during his years as pastor. Dr. Swoyer terminated his ministry at Mt. Zion on May 31, 1934. The Rev. James N. Frank served as supply pastor for two months and assisted for one month under the new pastor.

The Rev. John B. Kniseley, D. D., was called and began his pastorate in Mt. Zion on December 1, 1934. Under his leadership the debt was liquidated. Many improvements were made to the Church plant and property — corner lot cut down and landscaped; new gas furnaces installed; floor covering on all but one of the Sunday School rooms; new lanterns were installed and new carpet placed in the church; the choir robed; the contract let for the rebuilding and replacing of the pipe organ, which installation was completed before the celebration of the 80th Anniversary in October 9, 1956.

Three hundred and twelve men and women from the congregation served in the Armed Forces during World War II, eleven of whom paid the supreme sacrifice. Six sons of the congregation entered the Gospel Ministry during this pastorate, making a total to date of ten from the parish to enter the ministry. They are in the order of their ordination: Pastors Charles Alton Piel, J. Richard Booth, Edward L. Wagner, William G. Leubin, Karl E. Kniseley, Richard M. Langsdale, William W. Stremel, Robert P. Haslage, David F. Tate and LeRoy J. Dobbe. The Rev. W. Gordon Joyce was called to be Mt. Zion's first assistant pastor, beginning his duties on July 1, 1955.

Mt. Zion's pastors have served in the following order: G. H. Gerberding, 1876-1881; W. P. Shanor, 1881-1888; F. P. Bossart, 1888-1890; Peter Riffer, 1890-1895; T. S. Brown, 1895-1909; J. H. Worth, 1909-1915; P. H. Krauss, 1915-1919; C. W. Becker, 1919-1923; G. E. Swoyer, D. D., 1923-1934; J. B. Kniseley, D. D., 1934, —; W. Gordon Joyce (assistant), 1955-1956.

Pittsburgh (Homewood) Redeemer 1900

THE Church of the Redeemer is a daughter of Bethany. Pastor John Weidley took a great interest in the planting of a church in the Homewood section. Two lots on Mount Vernon Street were purchased and the contract for a chapel was let. The cornerstone of this chapel was laid January 28, 1900; the chapel was dedicated by Pastor Weidley April 22, 1900.

A Sunday School was organized at once. The congregation itself was organized by Rev. C. B. King, Missionary Superintendent of the General Synod, September 30, 1900 with 43 charter members of whom 22 came from Bethany. The chapel was built of brick veneer, 34 x 60, at a cost of $4,500. Such helpful work was done by student Robert Woods during the summer of 1900 that the congregation decided to secure him as pastor when he had finished his seminary training. Rev. R. B. Starks supplied the church during the winter and spring. Robert Woods became pastor, when he graduated the following June.

After a few years of successful work it was seen that a larger church was needed. In 1908 three additional lots were purchased giving the congregation control of a large corner plot at Mount Vernon Street and Lang Avenue. An extension was then built to the chapel at a cost of $9,000, giving them a plant valued at $37,000. The capacity of both church and Sunday School was again increased in 1915 at a cost of $2,300. Rededication services were conducted by Pastor Woods September 19, 1915. Although a parish mission of Bethany at the beginning Redeemer has never been a mission of the synod.

As the 25-year mark was reached, plans were put through for a two-story addition with room for a new organ. Beautiful memorial windows were installed by the benevolent kindness of members. Over 2000 people all told had become associated with Christ through the years. The Sunday School secretary reported an attendance of 502 on January 26, 1927.

The pastor made a trip to the Holy Land in the summer of 1930 with material help and encouragement from the congregation. It was a brief but impressive lull in the ceaseless and increasing demands of a large work.

The depression coupled with a heavy indebtedness cast its shadows over the congregation. A committee was appointed to help feed the hungry and clothe the destitute within our own gates.

In spite of these troubles, there arose a flourishing youth group and men's organization. On one Sunday in January, 1934, 555 were present at Sunday School. Hearts and hands were determined about this time to pay off the mortgage somehow, some way.

On September 30, 1940, only 23 out of the original 43 charter members were living. 3128 souls in 40 years had come forward to receive the right hand of fellowship. The debt stood at $28,150.00. The pastor had his eye on filling a half-century with service before he retired.

The second war broke out and 171 men and women were called into service from the membership. Again the effort was made to minister to those scattered loved ones by people and pastor alike.

One Saturday morning shortly after the end of World War II Pastor Woods was seized with a fatal attack which ended his long and fruitful pastorate. Mr. J. Clyde Cloman, a layman, conducted services until a new pastor could be secured.

The congregation called Wayne R. Woods, son of the former pastor, to serve the church. A Memorial Fund to the former pastor was raised to clear the debt on the church. Almost $10,000 was given outright in 12 months. On December 21, 1946 the Church of the Redeemer was free of debt.

The stewardship record of the congregation has become steadily more impressive. There has been steady support of Lutheran World Action; apportionment has been paid in full since 1952; the Thiel College Development Fund has been oversubscribed.

The strength of the congregation has been affected by the steady influx of Negro population into the surrounding community. In 1940 the Negro population was thirty per cent; in 1956 it was close to sixty per cent. The congregation has not responded too well to the changed social conditions.

A parish house, formerly rented, has been remodeled and is now used for the church school, smaller meetings, pastor's study and secretary's room.

Men who have served this church are: R. B. Starks (supply), 1900-1901; Robert W. Woods, D. D., 1901-1945; Layman J. Clyde Cloman (supply), 1945-1946; Wayne R. Woods, 1946-1956.

Pittsburgh — St. James' — 1905

(See Plate 33)

ST JAMES' Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at Arlington Avenue, near Sterling Street in the heart of the industrial center, South Side, Pittsburgh (10), Pa.. It has rendered fifty years of service in the Kingdom of God.

In the early spring of 1905, the Advisory Board, Home Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod and the Rev. J. Elmer Bittle, Superintendent, solicited the services of the Rev. J. H. Keller for Home Missionary work in Pittsburgh. And on April 11, 1905, this Superintendent took the Rev. Keller to Arlington Heights, St. Clair Borough and Mt. Oliver and said to him — "Begin here".

After making provisions for his boarding and rooming, he began the preliminary work, making a thorough religious canvass. Next, he hired Stoehr's Hall in which to begin services. On Sunday, June 18, 1905, the congregation was organized with 42 members. Some Missouri Lutherans, some Methodist, some were Welsh Congregationalists — all were an excellent class of people, with harmonious views and feelings essential to the success of any church.

The lot on which the church was built was purchased in September, 1906; the ground-breaking was on April 11, 1907; the cornerstone was laid May 5, 1907; the first service held in the church September 1, 1907. Dedication took place October 6, 1907 — two years and three and one-half months from the start of first services in Stoehr's Hall.

The church was practically built on faith, hope and love, since the full amount of the cost could not be secured at the time — $16,000.

The Pastor and the congregation did remarkable work and increased the membership to 210. The Sunday School organized with 27 scholars May 14, 1905 and moved up to a total of 250.

True, there was a large indebtedness — but all was safely secured except a floating debt of $1,500. It was a disagreement over the disposition of this debt that finally brought about the resignation of the first pastor.

In spite of the apparent strength manifested at the time of dedication, the mission had difficulty in adjusting itself to the burden of debt incurred in the building.

During the pastorate of Rev. G. F. Hegele, the congregation assumed self-support, but a dissension then arose which resulted in heavy losses. Dr. C. B. King and Dr. P. H. R. Mullen rendered valuable service at various times in helping the congregation in its financial problems. Only after the lapse of many years was any appreciable reduction made in the heavy debt. On January 30, 1949, a note-burning service took place, when the church was freed from all its old debt.

Plans were laid soon after to repair the building. A new furnace was installed in 1954. In November, 1955, the Sunday School was completely renovated. The Rev. Paul E. Daugherty, Missionary Superintendent, helped the congregation in securing a loan from the Synodical board of American Missions for this much needed work.

The following financial summary may give some idea of the expenditures of the congregation from 1905 - 1955.

Total Current Expenditures	$122,957.77
Total Synodical Benevolence	11,280.00
Grand Total for Last Fifty Years	$134,237.77

The history of St. James' from the granting of her charter, August 11, 1906, has been one of storm and sunshine, clouds and clear skies.

The changing pastorates for the period are given in the following order: J. H. Keller, 1905-1910; M. R. Hamsher, 1910-1913; W. O. Ibach, 1913-1916; W. A. Sadtler, 1916-1918; G. F. Hegele, 1918-1920; F. J. Fuerst, 1920-1922; J. K. Reizer, 1923-1926; Frederick Stueber, 1926-1931; J. M. Weber, 1931-1937; Jacob Wesley Thomas, 1937 —.

Pittsburgh (Highland) St. John's 1829

"THE German Church of St. John's in Allegheny County", was granted a charter in 1829. The history of St. John's Lutheran Church of Highland and that of McCandless Township are closely allied. McCandless Township was originally in Pine Township which, in 1796 comprised the whole of eleven townships and parts of three others. Through the years Pine Township lost a lot of its land by subdivision and in 1851 another division came when the southern part became McCandless Township named after Judge McCandless of Pittsburgh.

The territory originally was very rugged and was discussed in a letter dated February 19, 1788 to Benjamin Franklin by a man employed to subdivide property prior to its sale by the Commonwealth. The letter said that portions of the land which appeared valuable either for timber or soil abounded in high hills and deep hollows almost inaccessible to a surveyor. Coal had been found in the area but for the most part is far below the surface and consequently had not been worked to any extent. Thus, farming was the principal occupation. Much of the scenery along Pine Creek in McCandless Township was as wild and as beautiful as that in any part of the country.

Provision for religious services was made as early as 1795 when a plot of ground was set apart for that purpose. However, early information about the beginning of the Church of St. John has vanished. Records show that it was in 1804 that William Miller and Alexander Murray, along with many others, received land grants of 400 acres each from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through their attorney John Wilkin. These two men agreed to give a portion of their land for a church to worship the Almighty God and as a burial ground. The land of Alexander Murray was sold

JOHNSONBURG, Pennsylvania ST. JOHN'S

FOUNDED 1888

IRWIN, Pennsylvania HOLY TRINITY

FOUNDED 1874

JOHNSTOWN, Pennsylvania — ZION

FOUNDED 1852

Largest Membership Church in Synod.

Plate 22

JOHNSTOWN ZION

Detail of wood carvings on Pulpit.

Plate 23

LATROBE (Trauger), Pennsylvania ST. PAUL'S

FOUNDED 1782

The above building was dedicated May 20, 1904.

LEECHBURG, Pennsylvania FIRST

FOUNDED 1814

Litigation between First and Hebron after synod split of 1867 gives these churches special historical importance

LEECHBURG, Pennsylvania HEBRON

Interior

FOUNDED 1814

LEECHBURG, Pennsylvania HEBRON

Exterior and Parsonage

MANORVILLE, Pennsylvania GRACE

FOUNDED 1878

MONACA, Pennsylvania REDEEMER

FOUNDED 1868

Pulpit on the hymn board side was the pulpit from which Dr. William A. Passavant preached. It came from First Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh.

Plate 26

JACOB'S

MASONTOWN, Pennsylvania

One of the oldest Congregations in Synod.

FOUNDED 1773

TRINITY

MEADVILLE, Pennsylvania

One of the oldest Congregations in Erie Conference.

FOUNDED 1803

NEW KENSINGTON, Pennsylvania FIRST

FOUNDED 1891

MONROEVILLE, Pennsylvania GOOD SHEPHERD

FOUNDED 1955

This sign is a symbol of a growing mission church. At the present time four services are held each morning. A church will be erected in this community in the near future.

to Mangus M. Murray and sold again under judgment by the Sheriff of Allegheny County to Benjamin Chew, a Justice of Pennsylvania Supreme Court, for five cents per acre, or a total of twenty dollars. Claims against the land, including the claim of the Church were heard in court and four acres were deeded to the Church by agreement and the payment of one dollar. The congregation, under the name of "The German Church of St. John in Allegheny County", secured a charter in 1829 and the deed to the property September 5, 1832. The original charter is in the historical archives of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.

About this same time the First German Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh was organized and a chapel built at Sixth and Grant Streets.

From these early beginnings, more than 68 Lutheran churches have flourished, with a baptized membership of 43,484, as of 1955.

Early history of Allegheny County states that a log church was built by the German settlers many years prior to the date the charter was received in 1829; yet no further information is recorded until the year 1845. It was around this time that Trinity Church in the Brandt Settlement was organized and records show that the Rev. Michael Schweigert, the first pastor ordained by the Pittsburgh Synod, walked from McKeesport to serve St. John's and the newly organized Trinity Church. His successor in 1851 failed to care for St. John's and for a time it was served by Presbyterian ministers and for many years was known as the Cumberland Church.

It was not until sometime in 1860 that the Lutheran Church was revived by the Rev. Henry Rech, the pastor of Old Trinity, North Side, Pittsburgh. Historians note that the log church which first stood in the clearing in the wilderness was replaced about 1860 by a frame church similar to the present Cumberland Community Center Building.

For the next two years the work was carried on by the Rev. Josiah McPherrin. From 1863 until 1866 St. John's was served by the Rev. Jonathan Sarver, along with the Zelienople and Middle Lancaster churches. He traveled between churches on foot and on horseback, while a number of parishioners are known to have walked to St. John's from the Wexford and Perrysville areas. Around the turn of the century these modes of transportation were supplemented by the forerunner of the present Harmony Short Line.

For twelve years thereafter St. John's was without a regular pastor, but in 1878 the congregation was reorganized by the Rev. G. H. Gerberding, then pastor of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church of Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, and from that time the Church has had a continuous Lutheran pastorate.

St. John's shared with Mt. Zion the labors of the Rev. W. P. Shanor, the Rev. F. P. Bossart and the Rev. Peter Riffer until 1895. From that time until 1922 St. John's was joined with Trinity (Brandt's) Church and was served by the following pastors: The Revs. J. H. Meyer, J. Luepke, C. F. Tieman, P. J. Glatzert and Paul G. Klinger.

During this period, renovations were made to the 1860 frame structure and the main auditorium part of the present Community Center was built. The church bell, which has served faithfully for more than 50 years, was installed in the tower in 1904. Sunday School was held only in the summer months during these years.

The arrival of the "horseless carriage" brought improvements to St. John's too. The old pot-bellied stove, the poling fence, the hitching posts and the carriage stalls and sheds were removed in 1912. Grounds were landscaped, the church structure received some "face-lifting" and a chancel was added.

In 1922 St. John's became a self-supporting church with the beginning of the pastorate of the Rev. Willard D. Allbeck. It was at this time that Mrs. Margaret Espe gave a piece of land, located across the highway from the present Espe Elementary School, to the church and for a time serious consideration was given to the erection of a new edifice there. However, this matter was tabled until a more thorough investigation of the population trends was made, brought on again by progress in the mode of transportation. The Harmony Short Line provided deluxe service to this area and beyond, even showing moving pictures to the passengers as they were carried to their destinations. Meanwhile a parsonage was erected on the property and later a garage added.

Two important events occurred in 1929 — on April 15th the first wedding ever performed in the church in over 100 years was solemnized when Alice Espe married Howard S. McIlvried, Jr., and on June 30th of that year St. John's observed her centennial anniversary.

During the pastorate of Rev. Allbeck, the cemetery endownment fund was started, electric lights added to the church and a steady, substantial growth in church membership noted.

In 1932, pressed by growth, a Sunday School wing was added to the church building.

The Rev. Allbeck was succeeded, in 1937, by the Rev. George L. Ulrich, who served St. John's until 1948. The war years and better roads, making the area more easily accessible, brought an influx of population to the community and, along with it, problems for St. John's.

Should the church building be remodeled and enlarged to accommodate the rapid growth, or should an entirely new structure be built to replace the old, was difficult to conclude. The decision to start anew was finally made and in 1946 a new site, adjacent to the old, was acquired and the land graded.

In 1948 the original parsonage was sold and the following year a spacious new home for a new pastor, the Rev. Luther E. Fackler, was built. More than 50 craftsmen from the congregation gave of their time, energies, and talents for the new parsonage.

Easter Sunday, April 9, 1950, proved an eventful occasion to more than 250 members who crowded into the old frame church and, during a brief quiet moment during the service, the floor joists were heard to crack. Whether this was a "needle" to emphasize action is not exactly known, but on the following Sunday afternoon, ground was broken for the new colonial-type church edifice and Sunday School wing.

The Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., then president of the Pittsburgh Synod, was the guest speaker for the ground-breaking ceremonies. Together with Pastor Fackler, Mrs. Lydia Gauss, the oldest living member of the congregation (then 92), Mrs. Olive Huch and Mrs. Mae Bergman, two members of the first confirmation class of the old church, Mrs. Barbara Winner, mother of the only son of the congregation in the minitery, Master Ronald Huch, representing the youth of the church, participated in the service.

On the same afternoon the new parsonage was officially dedicated and opened for inspection.

The cornerstone for the new church was laid on September 9, 1951. The Rev. Willard D. Allbeck, D. D., former pastor and now head of the Historical Theology Department at Hamma Divinity School, Springfield, Ohio, was the principal speaker at the occasion.

The new cornerstone contains the Holy Bible, the Revised Version of the New Testament, Luther's Small Cathechism, The Augsburg Confession, a list of the 474 confirmed members of the congregation, a list of the members of the Church Council and the Building Committee, an autographed copy of the 1950 Confirmation Class Picture, copies of the Allegheny Journal and the Newsette, and one each of the 1951 United States coins. The cornerstone from the old church, built in 1895, was removed and placed on the opposite side of the new church building.

On November 23, 1952, the final service was held in the old church and the first in the new. More than 700 persons attended the impressive services. Dedicated during Thanksgiving Week, other services were held honoring the community in which St. John's holds an enviable position, honoring those who gave of their time and talent to plan, promote and build the present $250,000 edifice. Gifts were presented to the architect, Mr. Arthur Martzolf, prominent Lutheran layman and church builder, and Mr. Emory Huch, members of St. John's, who was the general contractor for the entire building program.

The first Communion Service in the new physical plant was held the following Sunday, November 30, with the Rev. Walter L. Winner, D. D., pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church, North Side, Pittsburgh, and ministerial son of the congregation as the guest preacher. The Sunday School was appropriately opened with John E. Winner, Esq., a former superintendent, bringing an inspiring message to an audience of 251 persons (a group larger than the entire congregation for several years before).

Today, St. John's, strategically located between two main traffic arteries, is conducting two morning church services in order to meet the spiritual desires of a large and growing congregation of 720 confirmed members. Rally Day observance brought 503 persons to hear Mr. Earl Hebrank, prominent Lutheran layman and president of the Greensburg Conference Sunday School Association, while a capacity audience heard the Rev. Henry H. Bagger, D. D., former president of the Pittsburgh Synod and now president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy, Pa., preach at the principal service. A staff of more than 50 persons was installed as the teachers and administrators of the present Church School. More than a dozen active organizations for adults and youths within the congregation, plus Week-Day Religious Education Classes for more than 200, on a released time basis, from North Allegheny Junior-Senior High School keep St. John's on the move.

Today, St. John's, the third oldest congregation, stands tenth in the number of communing members among the sixty-eight congregations of the Central Conference of the Pittsburgh Synod.

Her Sunday School is the fourth largest in enrollment, boasts the highest average attendance and is still growing. The physical plant, the sixth largest in the conference, with only a 15% debt, is being used to capacity. Plans are now on the drawing board for extensive additions and landscaping.

The old church, renovated through the generosity of several members, has been renamed the Cumberland Community Center and continues her faithfulness to her community by acting as a hub of youth activity.

Since the reorganization of St. John's by G. H. Gerberding in 1878 the church has been served by the following partors: G. H. Gerberding, 1878-1881; W. P. Shanor, 1881-1888; F. P. Bossart, 1888-1890; Peter Riffer, 1890-1895; J. H. Meyer, 1895; J. Luepke, 1895-1896; C. F. Tiemann, 1896-1899; P. J. C. Glatzert, 1900-1906; P. G. Klingler, 1907-1921; Willard D. Allbeck, 1922-1937; George L. Ulrich, 1937-1948; Luther E. Fackler, 1948 —.

Pittsburgh St. Luke's 1900

FOR several years prior to 1900, the conviction was growing upon the members of the Advisory Board of Home Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod of the former General Synod that the time was at hand when a Lutheran Church should be planted in the Perrysville Avenue district. This desire to organize a Lutheran congregation in this hill-top part of Allegheny was especially cherished by the Rev. John G. Goettman, D. D. pastor of Trinity Church, the oldest of the General Synod churches in Pittsburgh, and was bequeathed to his successor in Trinity Church, the Rev. A. J. Turkle.

The opportunity came in the summer of 1900, when the Eighth United Presbyterian congregation, upon the completion of its new and larger edifice in Perrysville Avenue, put a "For Sale" sign upon the brick church which it occupied on Federal Street Extension. For $5000, though the property was worth double that amount, the vacant building was purchased by the Advisory Board of Home Missions and the Missionary President of Synod, the Rev. C. B. King, on June 29, 1900. As yet there was no congregation or Sunday School to occupy it.

The first service was held in the newly acquired church on Sunday evening, July 22, 1900. The congregation was formally organized on Sunday evening, August 12, 1900, with 42 members, 22 of whom came from Trinity Church, though only 35 names appear on the charter.

The Rev. J. W. Romich, of Chicora, Pa., assumed the pastorate of the church on February 15, 1901. Under his earnest and consecrated leadership the church immediately grew, and many improvements were made to its building. In 1904 the congregation became self-sustaining, after receiving financial assistance from the Board of Home Missions for only three years, totalling $900. The congregation returned to the Synod the $5000 paid for its property.

Owing to the failing health of his wife, Pastor Romich tendered his resignation to take effect November 1, 1905, that he might enter a new field of labor in Pueblo, Col., thus bringing to a close the first pastorate of four years and eight months, years full of hard and fruitful toil, in which the pastor greatly endeared himself to his people, who upon his death on May 3, 1917, held a memorial service and later erected on the walls of their sanctuary a beautiful bronze tablet in his memory.

With the retirement of Pastor Romich, the congregation was pastorless for a period of seven months. The Rev. H. W. A. Hanson, then a licentiate of the West Pennsylvania Synod, completing his theological course in the Gettysburg Seminary, assumed his pastoral work in St. Luke's on June 1, 1906, being ordained by the Pittsburgh Synod the following October. With the coming of Pastor Hanson the church began another forward movement. Additional ground was purchased in 1910, looking toward the building of a larger edifice. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on August 27, 1911, and the new church dedicated on May 12, 1912. The beautiful and commodious edifice is built of Beaver County sand stone, with interior finish of oak. The front is Gothic in design with a cloister porch leading into two entrances. The sanctuary seats 650 people, and with the lifting of the electrically operated three-ton door which separates the sanctuary from the main Sunday School room, the seating capacity may be increased to about a thousand. The organ, a two-manual Moller, has 23 stops, 1097 pipes and a set of chimes. The art glass windows in the sanctuary and Sunday School are very beautiful and have an appraised value

of $60,000. The appraised value of the whole property, including the land and the old brick church, moved to the rear and now used for commercial purposes, is $248,000.

Due to the illness of his wife, the pastor tendered his resignation, effective February 1, 1913, thus bringing to a close a ministry of six years and eight months, characterized with marked ability and success.

At a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, May 25, 1913, a unanimous call was extended to the Rev. G. Arthur Fry, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Maytown, Pa. The call was accepted and Pastor Fry began his long ministry on July 1st. The largest financial endeavor of the church was that of 1923, when to liquidate an indebtedness of $18,000, an Every-Member-Canvass was made that yielded over $25,000 in cash and subscriptions. Many improvements have been made to the church property, all of which have been paid for, so that this handsome church is entirely free of debt.

For the rapid development of the earlier years, the church owes much to the capable leadership of Mr. Henry M. Schmitt, who was for its first twenty-seven years the efficient Superintendent of the Sunday School and treasurer of the church, and who when the present church was dedicated in 1912, laid upon the offering plate a personal check for $10,000. A year after his death in 1927, the congregation dedicated in the sanctuary a beautiful bronze tablet in his memory.

In World War II one hundred and eleven members served in the armed forces of the nation, without having as in World War I, a single fatality, though a number of the young men were wounded and one made a prisoner of war.

The Neighborhood Men's Bible Class, an interdenominational organization of more than 600 members, perhaps the largest men's Bible Class in the state, met for four years (1929-1933) in St. Luke's sanctuary, and had as its teacher Dr. John McNaugher, president of the United Presbyterian Seminary, whose biblical scholarship was profound.

Of the approximately $758,000 raised for all purposes since the organization of the church in 1900, almost $200,000 has been given to the missionary, education and charitable operations of the church.

The following ministers have served St. Luke's: J. W. Romich, 1901-1905; Henry W. A. Hanson, 1906-1913; G. Arthur Fry, 1913-1956; J. Peace, 1957-1958.

Pittsburgh St. Mark's 1889

ST. MARK'S owes its beginning to a Sunday School formed in January, 1886 by Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Rhodes, members of Trinity Lutheran Church. The school sessions were held in a hall owned by them, located in the neighborhood of the present North Side Carnegie Hall. The school was organized with 17 members. Mr. Rhodes became the superintendent. The growth of the school was rapid. Soon they needed a larger hall which necessitated their moving to the Monath Hall located at James and Tripoli Streets. This building was owned by Mr. Henry Monath who was a member of the Sunday School. By the turn of the century the Sunday School numbered more than 300.

On February 3, 1889 twenty one members of the school organized St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church. For a little over a year Rev. J. M. Snyder, Rev. I. Irvine, and Rev. H. B. Winton ministered to the newly formed church. The Mission Board of the Pittsburgh Synod (General Synod) took over the care of the church and Rev. C. B. King was called to be their first pastor. He began his ministry in July of 1890.

Two lots at the corner of Middle Street and North Avenue were purchased for $6,200. On these lots the present building was erected at a cost of $9,100; it was dedicated September 18, 1892. Most of the $15,300 cost of the church was collected by Pastor King from some thirteen hundred business men of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. The result of these contributions was the burning of the last mortgage on October 29, 1894. On July 1, 1897 the Mission became a self supporting congregation.

Under the direction of Pastor King the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized. This organization started a Sunday School on Spring Hill. The Spring Hill School purchased a lot and erected a church which they dedicated July 1, 1898. Twenty one members were dismissed from St. Mark's to become charter members of the Spring Hill Church which was named Mt. Olivet.

The organization of St. Luke's church caused a decline in membership, so that by 1905 membership was down to 150. There followed a steady growth which brought the membership by 1920 to over 400. However, by 1930 another decline set in bringing the membership down to 200. In 1956 the confirmed membership stood at 101 with 78 communing. Supply pastors have been serving the church since 1948.

Pastors who have served St. Mark's are: Isaiah Irvine (supply), 1889-1890; C. B. King, 1890-1898; H. S. Gilbert, 1899-1901; Eli Miller, 1901-1907; Charles Leonard, 1907-1911; W. C. Dunlap, 1911-1912; M. A. Spotts, 1912-1914; H. A. Rinard, 1915-1918; T. G. Shuey, 1918-1926; H. C. Reller (supply), 1926-1927; Harvey Erb, 1927-1930; C. B. King, 1931-1936; Paul Scholl, 1936-1939; J. M. Weber, 1939-1948; John Zornan (supply), 1948-1949; M. S. Miller (supply), 1949 —.

Pittsburgh (Hazelwood) St. Paul's 1899

THIS church is located in the Hazelwood-Glenwood section of the city of Pittsburgh, Pa. The Rev. A. J. Bean, as Synodical Missionary Superintendent, organized the Sunday School on March 14, 1897 and held meetings in Moor's Hall. Later the school was moved to the Public School building in Glenwood.

On May 29, 1898 the congregation was organized, and Rev. A. J. Bean was called as the first pastor. One year later, on May 29, 1899, the Allegheny County Courts granted a charter to Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh, Pa., with a membership of 37 persons.

The corner lot at Second Avenue and Mansion Street in Glenwood was purchased by Pastor Bean for the erection of a place of worship. The cornerstone for the original building was laid on December 18, 1898 and the first structure was dedicated on June 17, 1899. This small chapel soon proved inadequate and more room was needed. Work was immediately started to enlarge the building. The enlarged structure was dedicated on January 25, 1903.

During Rev. Boory's pastorate the interior of the church was completely remodeled, the floor elevated and new lighting fixtures were installed. Shortly thereafter the concrete steps at the front entrance to the church were built and in 1918, during World War I, a 75 foot steel flag pole was donated and erected by the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company.

During World War I St. Paul's Church was headquarters for the Red Cross unit of Hazelwood and Glenwood where surgical dressings were made for the armed forces.

Rev. Robert L. Smith became pastor on May 1, 1919 and resigned November 1, 1945 after a very successful pastorate of over 25 years. During that time a new hot air heating plant was installed and the church interior was redecorated. The chapel in the rear of the church was practically rebuilt to make it a better place in which to teach the Beginners and Primary Sunday School pupils. An Estey Reed organ was installed in the church as well as a new marble Baptismal Font as memorials.

A crushing blow was dealt the congregation when on October 29, 1946 The City of Pittsburgh condemned the building and ordered the faulty structure repaired or razed. It became necessary to construct a new building which was dedicated on September 12, 1948. During the construction of the new church Sunday School and worship services were held on the second floor of the Glenwood car barn office.

The following ministers have served St. Paul's: A. J. Bean, 1898-1908; C. Robert Dunlap, 1909-1911; C. A. Boory, 1911-1919; Robert L. Smith, 1919-1945; George C. Vetter, 1946-1949; Joseph Arnold (supply), 1949; Robert L. Hamilton, 1949-1951; Paul E. Walthour, 1952-1954; Lloyd K. Haag, 1954-1957; James T. Costanzo, 1957 —.

Pittsburgh St. Stephen 1891

THIS congregation was organized by Pastor Samuel R. Elson of Braddock, May 4, 1891. His first services were held in the old Wilkinsburg Academy, but, they were so poorly attended that several months of hard work were necessary before an organization could be effected. The church applied for admission to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod in 1891, under the name of "Grace English Lutheran Church of Wilkinsburg", and was received and recommended to the Board of Missions for aid.

The officials of the General Council protested this action in vain. After some time the congregation decided to relocate in Brushton, and held their services in a frame schoolhouse. The wisdom of this was demonstrated by the addition of thirty new members to the original seventeen in less than six months. A charter was secured in July, 1892. The church lot on the corner of Brushton and Hamilton Avenues was secured through the kindness of Charles F. Stifel and J. Walter Hay, who held the property in trust until the mission would be able to pay for it.

Unfortunately, the people did not consider themselves able to take care of it. They accepted the corner lot at $2,000, but gave the two adjoining lots to others for a consideration of $2,100. A building committee was appointed to superintend the construction of a neat frame church, which was dedicated, March 26, 1893. A good pipe organ was donated by Henry C. Frick. The total cost of the church and lot was $8,000.

Pastor Elson resigned, July 30, 1893, and was succeeded by Pastor A. J. Bean, who gave faithful service from November 1, 1893 to November 1, 1895. Fifty-six new members were added to the congregation during this short pastorate. The third pastorate was that of Rev. F. H. Crissman, 1896-1897, during which thirty members were dismissed to form Calvary Church of Wilkinsburg. During the pastorate of Rev. Ernest R. McCauley, 1898-1900, the Common Service was introduced to the great edification of the congregation. Under the leadership of Pastor Sanford N. Carpenter, 1900-1909, the mission became a self-sustaining parish.

One of the most intensive pastorates was that of Rev. Charles M. Teufel, 1909-1918, during which so many new families were added that the congregation became one of the largest in the synod. The name of the church was changed from "Brushton Avenue Evangelical Lutheran Church" to "St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh" in March, 1907. This development called for extensive improvements to the church at a cost of $12,000, and the building was rededicated by Pastor Teufel January 18, 1914.

On Monday, March 20, 1916, this church was destroyed by fire. Aside from partitions in the basements, sections of flooring and the foundation walls, nothing of value was left. Even the walls were not strong enough to bear the weight of a good building. The sum of $10,500 was received on the insurance, which might have been larger had the co-insurance clause of the policies been better understood.

The people rallied to the call of their splendid leader, and a new church was erected and dedicated February 25, 1917. This church was built of stone in Old English Gothic style at a cost of $30,000. Many encouraging contributions were received from other congregations. During the pastorate of Rev. H. F. Baughman, St. Stephen continued to develop along conservative Lutheran lines, and intensive parish work was prosecuted under the leadership of a deaconess from the Baltimore

Motherhouse. From 1918 to 1923 the debt was gradually decreased from $19,850 to $16,475.

The Rev. H. Reed Shepfer succeeded to the pastorate in 1925 and served until September 1928. During this pastorate the congregation unified the gains made in recent years.

The pastorate of Rev. Jacob F. Scholl was the longest in the history of St. Stephen, seventeen years, from January 1, 1929 to December 31, 1945. The untiring consecrated efforts and ministry of Pastor Scholl carried the congregation through the trying years of the depression when the faith and perseverance of the people were sorely tested. Under the leadership of Pastor Scholl the congregation held loyally to the church; the debt was reduced to $2,500. Ill health caused Pastor Scholl to resign to retirement on December 31, 1945.

The Rev. Thomas A. Smith was called to the pastorate in June, 1957, upon his ordination. One of the most serious problems St. Stephen must face and solve is that of racial population change, but with divine guidance and willingness on the part of the people, this problem will be solved to the growth of the Kingdom.

The pastors served in the following order: S. R. Elson, 1891-1893; A. J. Bean, 1893-1895; F. H. Crissman, 1896-1897; J. C. N. Park, 1897; E. R. McCauley, 1898-1900; S. N. Carpenter, 1900-1909; C. M. Teufel, 1909-1918; H. F. Baughman, 1918-1925; H. R. Shepfer, 1925-1929; J. F. Scholl, 1929-1946; J. Victor Murtland, 1946-1948; F. R. Greninger, 1948-1957; Thomas A. Smith, 1957 —.

Pittsburgh Trinity 1860

IN May, 1846 William A. Passavant opened a humble mission school in the old "Temperance Ark" in Allegheny. There were seven teachers and 36 scholars. This school was maintained for three years, when the building changed ownership and the school was left homeless. An effort was made to secure another room, but the workers lost heart and the school disbanded.

There were many unchurched children in the neighborhood, however, and two ladies of the Episcopal Church determined to do something for them. Failing to interest their own rector, they appealed to Dr. Passavant who gladly availed himself of this second opportunity to plant a Lutheran Church in Allegheny. A lady who taught a select school on Martin street offered her schoolroom for Sunday afternoons. Later the upper story of a fire engine house on the same street was secured. It was no ideal location. The dirt and din were disheartening, but the heroism of the teachers outlived it all.

The character of the work done here between 1850 and 1854 was such that no prophet was needed to tell the city that the foundations of a great church were being laid. The use of the chapel of the Second Presbyterian Church was secured in the winter of 1853, and Rev. Milton Valentine of Chartiers gave them occasional Sunday evening services. This church was bought in 1854 for $1,962 and some more money was spent in making repairs, but all the needed money was raised except $1,000 which was funded as a debt. In 1854 there were 200 scholars enrolled in the school; in 1859 there were 350. At this time Allegheny City had a population of 28,000.

As yet no provision had been made for the English Lutheran work. The English Lutherans crossed the river to Pittsburgh when they attended church, and the Pittsburgh congregation did not want them to withdraw their membership. When they

made their wishes known to the Church Council, they met with opposition, and this opposition was shown in an official protest to the Pittsburgh synod in 1860. All of these objections were overruled by the great Head of the Church, however, for the "First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Allegheny" was organized on October 21, 1860 with 48 members, 36 of whom received letters of dismissal from First Church.

The name adopted at the organization was retained until December 6, 1876, when it was changed to Trinity. The first pastor was Rev. Henry Reck who served from December 15, 1860 to July 1, 1863. His salary was $400.

His successor was Rev. John G. Goettman who began a long and fruitful pastorate November 29, 1863. With an intense love for the distinctive doctrines of the Lutheran Church that ever gave dignity and strength to his labors, with natural graces that made him at home among all classes of people, with a consecration fire in his heart that was never allowed to smoulder, John G. Goettman was eminently fitted to become the pastor of a church that was destined to fill a strategic position in the developing life of the Lutheran Church in western Pennsylvania. During the synodical controversy he proved a tower of strength to the General Synod interests.

After the stress of this period had been relieved to a certain degree, the congregation took up the question of building a new church. The old church on Washington street was sold in 1870 for $9,000, and the Stockton homestead, corner of Stockton avenue and Arch street, was bought for $10,000. Something over $30,000 was spent in the building and furnishing of this church which was dedicated May 26, 1872.

From 1889 to 1899 Dr. Goettman was given an assistant pastor in order that he might have more free time to prosecute the great mission work so dear to his heart. On May 11, 1897 Dr. Goettman bowed beneath the heavy burden and a few months later relinquished the pastorate. His resignation was accepted October 26, 1898, when he was elected pastor emeritus. Nothing in the history of Trinity Church shines with a brighter lustre than her tender care of the stricken pastor until the final summons came November 5, 1905.

His successor was Dr. Alonzo J. Turkle who began his pastorate on February 1, 1899, and maintained the same high standards of service set by his predecessor. The church building was given a thorough renovation in the summer of 1922. Two Trinity men entered the ministry: Lewis Hay and Wilkins Blair Claney.

Two of her daughters have graced the parsonage as minister's wives, Miss Ivy Eggers was married to the Rev. J. Bradley Markward on June 11, 1899 and Miss Anna Smith to the Rev. Herman C. Reller on June 21, 1899.

Trinity has ever been an unselfish church and through the young people of Trinity, Grace Lutheran Church on Troy Hill was started. Twenty-five persons were transferred from Trinity August 12, 1900 to organize St. Luke's Lutheran Church. All through these years Trinity has been missionary in spirit.

The Rev. J. Louis Sittler was called as pastor January 27, 1938 and continued as pastor to September 1, 1944. During his pastorate a destructive fire made it necessary to remove the distinctive high steeple of Trinity.

The present pastor of Trinity, Dr. Grover E. Swoyer, began his work January 21, 1945. Many improvements have been made during his pastorate. The chancel was entirely remodeled. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Volkwein presented Trinity with the beautiful altar and the highly attractive new reredos and made extensive changes in the organ. On May 22, 1949 their gift was dedicated to the glory of God.

The entire basement was cemented and made over which gave Trinity a most splendid Fellowship Room. The church and the Sunday School room were also newly carpeted.

In the past ten years the Pittsburgh Synod twice held its annual meetings in Trinity, on May 24 to May 27, 1948 and also on May 21 to May 24, 1951.

The membership during the pastorate of Dr. Swoyer has increased from around 400 members to over 800. January 10, 1955 the tenth anniversary of the pastorate of Dr. Swoyer was held with Mayor David L. Lawrence bringing greetings on behalf of the city of Pittsburgh and Dr. George L. Himmelman preached the sermon.

Trinity now looks forward to when in October, 1960 it will celebrate its 100 years of usefulness in the heart of the great steel city, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The following ministers who have served Trinity are: Henry Reck, 1860-1863; John G. Goettman, 1863-1898; (Assistants who served from 1889-1899 were: W. E. Main, A. D. Fitchhorn, E. E. Blint, W. L. Heuser, Henry Anstadt, Samuel T. Nicholas, and J. B. Markward); Alonzo J. Turkle, 1899-1938; J. Louis Sittler, 1938-1944; Grover E. Swoyer, D. D., 1945 —.

Pleasant Hills Prince of Peace 1953

FOLLOWING a number of inquiries concerning the possibility of a United Lutheran Church in Pleasant Hills, a survey of the field was taken under the supervision of the Synodical Board of American Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod. The survey revealed that 78 adults were interested in having a United Lutheran Church and that approximately 200 others could be considered prospects for membership. On the basis of this favorable report, the field was approved for occupancy by the Board on April 29, 1953. Thereupon, the Board extended a formal call to Student of Theology Thomas L. Guinn to develop the mission.

Work began in Pleasant Hills on June 8, 1953 and a steering committee was appointed to guide its progress. The initial meeting of interested folk was held on August 18, 1953 at which time it was decided to begin holding services looking forward to the formal organization of a congregation. The first worship service was held on Sunday, August 30, 1953 in the Pleasant Hills Borough Building at 11 A. M. Eighty-two persons attended. A two-story brick house at 369 McClellan Drive was purchased for use as a parsonage and was occupied on August 31, 1953.

The formal organization of the congregation took place on December 20, 1953 at 3 P. M. when "54 persons petitioned the Pittsburgh Synod and the Board of American Missions of the ULCA to organize an Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pleasant Hills, Pennsylvania". Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, was chosen as the name for the new congregation and The Rev. Thomas L. Guinn was called as pastor. One-hundred and thirty-five persons attended the inspiring service at which The Rev. R. H. Gerberding, executive secretary of the Board of American Missions preached the sermon, and the Rev. Donald L. Houser presided at the formal organization. The congregation was formally received into membership of the Pittsburgh Synod at its 112th convention in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on May 25, 1954.

A church site at the corner of Old Clairton Road and National Drive was procured through the purchase of 3/4 acre and a gift of an additional two acres. Plans for a chapel are now being developed with construction to begin sometime in 1956. Pastor Guinn resigned in 1958.

Prospect Emanuel 1843

A small group of men met with Pastor Gottlieb Bassler in the home of Lewis Roth December 5, 1842 and resolved to establish a church in Prospect. These men were from Stone Church, but they believed that the time had come to provide for a church nearer home. Since they believed that more English preaching was needed than Pastor Schweizerbarth was willing to give in the Stone Church, they turned to Pastor Bassler as their leader.

A constitution was adopted January 2, 1843. Pastor Bassler began regular services in the community, preaching either in the schoolhouse or in the union church, and conducted the first communion service May 21, 1843, when 34 persons received the sacrament.

When the G. P. Robinson Property was secured for $300 in 1844, the German Lutherans and the Reformed became interested and asked for a share in the building venture. This was granted January 28, 1844. The German and the English group shared the worship facilities with remarkable friendliness.

The congregation prospered under the ministry of Pastor Bassler, and the building of a large church soon became imperative. A lot was secured from James McCullough for $76 September 20, 1847 on which a brick church was dedicated March 9, 1849. The actual money cost was small because of the many donations.

The successor to Pastor Bassler was Asa H. Waters who left a strong spiritual impression on the community during a pastorate of 11 years. From 1855 to 1861 he served a large parish consisting of Prospect, Stone Church, Butler and Hannahstown after which the last two were surrendered to the care of Pastor J. H. Fritz.

During the Civil War he led a company of volunteers to Camp Curtin, and later rendered service in the Christian Commission. The large parsonage property was bought for $1,000 during his pastorate, and a parsonage was built there in 1888.

Many renovations, of course, have been made to the old church. Most recently, in 1955, during the pastorate of R. N. Stumpf, the basement excavation was made under the church and many alterations on the main floor.

Emanuel has had a rich history in the past. To the full time ministry of the church this small congregation has given a long and illustrious list of church leaders, such as: John Scott, Henry W. Roth, John D. Roth, D. Luther Roth, T. B. Roth, Carl C. Roth, Paul Wagner Roth, Paul H. Roth, Samuel H. Roth, W. P. Shanor, George W. Critchlow, John A. Waters, A. C. P. Hays, and Mosheim Waters. Samuel Marion Roth and Sharron Wright lost their lives in the service of their country before their ministerial studies were completed.

Pastors who have served this church are: Gottlieb Bassler, 1842-1854; A. H. Waters, 1855-1866; Lewis Hippee, 1866-1873; S. H. Swingle, 1873-1879; G. W. Critchlow, 1880-1884; R. R. Durst, 1886-1889; Nathanael Scheffer, 1889-1894; D. B. Stahlman, 1895-1900; A. H. Bartholomew, 1901-1907; Herbert Martens, 1908-1911; D. G. Gerberich, 1912-1917; J. V. Sappenfield, 1917-1920; J. A. Frischkorn, 1920-1924; C. L. V. Dozer, 1924-1927; W. F. Adolphsen, 1927-1930; R. C. Lauffenburger, 1931-1937; L. W. Rupp, 1937-1949; E. A. Felker, 1949-1953; R. N. Stumpf, 1954-1958.

Punxsutawney First 1888

AMONG the earliest pioneers of this community were a number of Germans, who were organized into a union Reformed and Lutheran Church by Rev. John Althaus in 1838. Out of this congregation the Martin Luther German Church was organized by Rev. C. C. Brandt in 1853. The original constitution of this church required all pastors to belong to a district synod of the General Synod, but this item was not enforced. This German church is now a part of The Missouri Synod.

While the German Church enjoyed a fair degree of prosperity, there was a strong demand for the organization of an English Lutheran Church. This demand was augmented by the rapid growth of the community when the coal fields were opened in the 1880's. A number of Lutherans from the Smicksburg and Trade City Parish had moved to Punxsutawney, and these formed the nucleus of the church which was organized December 9, 1888. There were 43 charter members, 24 coming from the Smicksburg Parish.

The first place of meeting was Bair Hall, which was offered to them at the nominal weekly rental of two dollars, with light and heat furnished. The constitution was adopted December 30, 1888, and a Sunday School of 32 scholars organized on the same day.

The old house on Pine Street, in which the organization of the church had been conceived, was bought for $3,200 in 1890. The cornerstone of the church was laid June 1, 1893, and the new building was dedicated June 23, 1895. It was built of brick, with a spire, at a total cost of $11,000. Improvements were made in 1913 at a cost of $6,500,and a pipe organ installed in 1922 at a cost of $1,800.

Under the leadership of Rev. Paul Hamsher a complete renovation of the interior was made in 1939, with new chancel arrangement, new floors, new pews. Again, in 1950 the new entrance to the church was completed, and the narthex of the church constructed. Looking forward to further growth and expansion, in 1957 a large property adjacent to the church was purchased.

The parsonage on West Mahoning street was purchased and renovated in 1920 at a cost of $6,000. The house was completely renovated in 1958 at a cost of over $7,500.

The first pastors of the congregation received aid from the Mission Board of the Church. On February 24, 1893 the pastor began preaching at Mt. Zion Church, and on April 1, 1895 the two churches reached a formal agreement to share the services of a pastor. This arrangement has followed though to the present.

The following pastors have served First English Church: B. E. Shaner, 1889-1891; Peter Ewald, 1891-1894; S. E. Smith, 1894-1898; J. R. Sample, 1899-1903; R. W. Mottern, 1903-1904; S. T. Himes, 1904-1909; W. C. Spayde, 1910-1915; J. M. Weber, 1915-1920; C. O. Frank, 1920-1924; H. F. Miller, 1925-1932; L. F. Wagschal, 1932-1937; Paul O. Hamsher, 1937-1943; E. E. Oney, 1943-1956; Frank B. Herzel, 1956-1958.

Punxsutawney (Bell Twp.) Mt. Zion 1849

DURING the summer of 1852 a number of citizens of the Grube settlement in Bell Township, Jefferson County, organized a Church Sunday School where all the children of the community could meet and study God's Word. Names like Cochran, Rudolph, Graffius, Kuntz, Hauck, and Grube dot the records. There was no denomination in the neighborhood strong enough to support a school so the name adopted was "The Forest Union Sunday School." The meetings were at first held in an old log schoolhouse on the Grube farm.

There is no certainty as to when this Sunday School became the School of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. There is a record of a Rev. E. Manges serving Mt. Zion 1873-1877. Other pastors mentioned, in succession, were John T. Gladhill, W. Selner, and D. W. Leitzell. At this stage Rev. Samuel Edward Smith appears. This pastor had been serving First English Lutheran Church of Punxsutawney, and now appears to have served the two congregations "by mutual consent." The following year (1895) a formal agreement was reached uniting the two congregations into a pastoral charge, with Mt. Zion receiving services every second Sunday. This arrangement has continued to the present.

No definite record is at hand to date the time of erection of the present one-room frame church, but the older members recall that it must have been in the 1880's. To this building, 32 x 60, there is now being added a two-story piece measuring 24 x 42. This will provide space for class rooms and a social room, thus carrying out the early tradition of the Sunday School as a community center.

The present membership of Mt. Zion is 105 baptized, 80 confirmed, and 53 communing. Perhaps the church had its largest membership from 25 to 50 years ago. This rural church, like many others, has made its largest contribution in the hundreds of men and women it has sent into other communities and churches. There have been some outstanding leaders, and many faithful laymen, who have blessed the larger towns and churches to which they have gone. Schools have been consolidated, the country stores have disappeared, but the church which is only 6 miles from the shopping center still refuses to give up. The idea of the Union Sunday School, uniting the community, lives on.

The organization date of this church is given as 1849. However, no list of pastorates for the early years is available. The records, in some instances, provide names, but no dates. The list as provided by the present pastor includes: E. Manges, 1873-1877; John T. Gladhill, (no dates); W. Selner, (no dates); D. W. Leitzell, (no dates); Samuel Edward Smith, 1894-1898; J. R. Sample, 1899-1903; R. W. Mottern, 1903-1904; S. T. Himes, 1904-1909; W. C. Spayde, 1910-1915; J. M. Weber, 1915-1920; C. O. Frank, 1920-1924; H. F. Miller, 1925-1932; L. F. Wagschal, 1932-1937; Paul O. Hamsher, 1937-1943; E. E. Oney, 1943-1956; Frank B. Herzel, 1956-1958.

SOMETIME in the 1840's the Associated Reformed Congregation was started on the location where the present church stands. In 1852 the Rehoboth United Presbyterian Church purchased from the Associated Reformed Congregation a site upon which a building was erected on a hill about three miles east of Remington, now Conway. This church was one of a charge consisting of the Remington United Presbyterian Church and the Oakland United Presbyterian Church in New Sewickley Township, near Sunflower Corner's. The trustees purchased several pieces of ground, one from Simon and Naomi Cotton, 53 perches for $1.00, one from William and Catherine Dunlap, 40 perches for $1.00 and one from Thomas and Mary Wipple of 90 perches for $40.00.

In the early 1870's the congregation of this church, because of dissension, became inactive and the church building was used as a sheep shelter. In 1875 this property was purchased by Dr. William A. Passavant and Dr. George Y. Boal from the sessions of the Oakland and Remington United Presbyterian Churches and was held in trust for a Lutheran congregation. In 1876 a congregation was organized and a Sunday School of 80 pupils started.

Previous to this time, Dr. Passavant, for a number of years served as a missionary among the hills and valleys of Beaver County. In connection with his work at Rochester, he began preaching in a car shop. He visited the village of Baden on Sunday afternoons; there he preached, at first in a schoolhouse and afterwards built a neat frame church.

Dr. Passavant's duties were taken over by his son, William Alfred Passavant, Jr.; who served the church from 1879 to 1885. Tradition has it that in the absence of the Passavants, Mr. A. F. Forsyth or Dr. Boal would conduct the services, and that the old church looked so beautiful at Christmas time with rope festoons of evergreens hanging from the large beams across the church, with stars made of evergreens between the windows and a very large decorated tree. Folks often spent three days decorating for the occasion.

In 1887 Reverend R. Morris Smith began his pastorate of 20 years. When the roads were too muddy to drive by horse and buggy, or ride horseback, he was seen coming wearing rubber boots. Reverend Smith was an accomplished musician, and in the absence of the church organist, he would play the organ and lead the singing. The book racks and Hymn Board were made by Reverend Smith. (Hymn Board was given to Hope Lutheran Church, near Evans City, in 1944). During Reverend Smith's pastorate, in 1904, plans were made to erect a new church building. The cornerstone was laid on September 4, and the new, or present building was dedicated on December 4, 1904, by Reverend D. H. Geissinger, D. D., president of the Pittsburgh Synod.

Reverend Ludwig Beisecker followed Reverend Smith. His pastorate covered the years 1907-1911, and he served the Freedom Parish, consisting of St. John, Freedom; House of Mercy, Crows Run, and Rehoboth. He resided in Freedom and held services at Rehoboth on alternate Sundays. During his pastorate a charter was granted and a constitution adopted by the Rehoboth congregation. A Missionary Society was organized.

Reverend Wallace E. Arnholt, 1916-1924, worked faithfully and endured much with muddy and drifted roads. He, like his predecessors, walked, drove or rode horseback to get to Rehoboth. Tragedy struck the Arnholt family while he was pastor

here. Mrs. Arnholt was fatally burned, leaving the Pastor to care for their five children and the home. After leaving Rehoboth, Reverend Arnholt served St. Mark's, Jeannette, and Ruffsdale-Hunker Parish, where he celebrated his Fortieth Anniversary in the Gospel Ministry.

Reverend J. B. Lambert, 1924-1929, came at a time when much work was necessary at Rehoboth. Rededication service was held on July 10, 1927.

Reverend Paul N. Schnur was called to serve the Freedom Parish in February of 1924 and in March of that year the connection with this parish was severed. Rehoboth then united with St. Paul's Glenfield, and called Reverend W. Roy Goff as pastor.

Reverend W. Roy Goff, 1929-1942, served the congregation well during the time of "Depression." Good use of the free time was made at Rehoboth. The basement was fully excavated. Electricity was installed in the church, a cistern and new chimney were built. A new furnace was purchased and we began to have regular church services every Sunday, and the present Ladies Aid Society was organized.

Reverend Harvey L. Huntley, 1942-1945, was the first of the pastors to live in the community, as they purchased the parsonage in 1943. During his pastorate Bulletin Service was started and the choirs were robed.

Reverend H. Wahl Pfeifer, 1946-1949, came to us from the chaplaincy in the navy. The constitution was revised during his pastorate. The present Missionary Society was reorganized.

Reverend Ivan G. Mattern, 1949-1952, was the first pastor called to serve Rehoboth-St. Matthew's Parish, which was formed in 1949, after the severance of ties with Glenfield. During his pastorate a Wurlitzer Electronic Organ and Schulmerich Bell Tower System were purchased.

Reverend Woodrow Jennings Klinger was called in November, 1952. He accepted the call after much prayer and meditation in January, 1953. He began to serve on February 15, 1953 after serving in North Central Pennsylvania for 13 years.

In 1954 the Sunday School helped a new mission congregation by securing altar appointments at Hope Lutheran church. In September of that year, the congregation observed the 50th Anniversary and Homecoming. The Reverend Dr. Clarence Edward MacCartney, former curator and eminent author and preacher of the Presbyterian Church, also the Reverend Dr. G. Lawrence Himmelman, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, were the main guest speakers in this week of services.

In 1955 and again in March of 1956, the congregation voted to propose merger with the St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Wall Rose. However, the latter congregation rejected the gesture of uniting as one congregation. On April 22nd of this year, the Rehoboth congregation voted overwhelmingly to proceed with building their own new church structure. The church is located in a very rapidly growing and improving community due to the boom in the steel industry. Over 90% of the present constituency are employed in this type of industry.

Pastors who have served this church are: W. A. Passavant, 1876-1879; W. A. Passavant, Jr., 1879-1885; R. M. Smith, 1887-1907; Ludwig Beisecker, 1907-1911; W. A. Zundel, 1912-1916; W. E. Arnholt, 1916-1924; J. B. Lambert, 1924-1929; Paul N. Schnur, 1924 (in connection with Freedom Parish); W. Roy Goff, 1929-1942; Harvey L. Huntley, 1942-1945; H. Wahl Pfeifer, 1946-1949; Ivan G. Mattern, 1949-1952; Woodrow J. Klinger, 1953 —.

Rehoboth (Wall Rose) St. Matthew's 1838

BETWEEN 1832 and 1827 a number of Germans from Alsace, Wittenberg, Bavaria, and Switzerland settled in Economy Township. Prominent among these were the Breitensteins, after whom the church was commonly named. Beginning in 1837 Rev. E. F. Winter of the Reformed Church held services in their homes. On January 1, 1838 he organized what was known as the German Evangelical Reformed and Lutheran Church.

Probably forty more families than those whose names appear on the list of the original congregation were identified with the founding of a congregation during its early years. The erection of their first church was made possible by Wilhelm Breitenstein who sold them two acres of ground for $12 and then donated the purchase price to the building fund. The church was dedicated as St. Matthew's Church, May 22, 1842.

When this church became too small for the congregation, additional ground was donated by Henry Breitenstein. The cornerstone of a new church was laid, August 9, 1854, and the building dedicated by Pastor Winter, June 3, 1855. As in the first instance so much was donated that the cash cost of the church was less than $1,000.

The first constitution was adopted, January 4, 1845; the second on June 3, 1855; the third in 1880. A charter was obtained in 1884. The chief feature of these changes of constitution was the change of names. At first they called themselves the "German Evangelical Reformed and Lutheran Church"; in the constitution of 1880 they were called "The German United Evangelical St. Matthew's Church;" and at the present the congregation is known as St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

At the beginning only German was used in the public service; since 1909 it has been eliminated. In early years the policy of the congregation was exceedingly liberal, and any German pastor was welcome in the pulpit, whether he was Lutheran, Reformed, or Evangelical.

An article in the constiuttion of 1855 said: "This congregation shall not be in connection with any synodical body as long as three members only are opposed to it." Sentiment, however, changed so that in 1922 the church asked for membership in the Pittsburgh Synod.

During the pastorate of Rev. Charles Stahlman, 1931-1948, the Zion Lutheran congregation of Ambridge was also a member of the parish served by one pastor.

Rev. Frederick B. Haer was pastor for one year, 1948-1949, when the parish was dissolved and St. Matthew's formed a parish with Rehoboth, which connection exists to the present time.

On February 15, 1953 Rev. Woodrow Jennings Klinger began the present pastorate. The congregation increased over 50% in the past three years. In 1955 and again in 1956 the congregation defeated by a close decision the proposition to form as one congregation with the Rehoboth congregation. On April 29, 1956 the congregation voted to construct a Sunday School Building on the side of the present church structure.

Pastors who have served the parish are: E. F. Winter, 1838-1865; Carl Jaeckel, 1865-1867; Herman Gilbert, 1867-1872; John Muehlhauser, 1875; Rev. Blaesi, Rev. Minnich, Rev. Frommel, 1875-1887; J. G. Reinartz, 1887-1899; J. A. Frischkorn, 1899-1901; P. J. C. Galtzert, 1902-1907; J. A. Frischkorn (second term), 1907-1909; J. I. Shaud, 1909-1915; W. M. Weaver, 1915-1916; H. D. Whitteker, 1917-1921; Bernard Fetterly, 1921-1930; Charles Stahlman, 1931-1948; Frederick B. Haer, 1948-1949; Ivan G. Mattern, 1949-1952; Woodrow J. Klinger, 1953 —.

Renovo Zion's 1881

EARLY in the spring of 1881, Pastor John Sander of Ridgway in passing through this town made inquiry concerning its Lutheran population. In order to gather information he held a service in the Masonic Hall, April 24, 1881, and learned that there were about thirty persons who would welcome the organization of a Lutheran Church. Student Charles S. Seaman spent the summer of 1881 in Renovo, and succeeded in finding about sixty confirmed Lutherans, who were ready to welcome a pastor. Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church was formally organized, July 10, 1881. The constitution recommended by the General Council was adopted August 1, 1881.

During the following winter and spring the new congregation was supplied by neighboring ministers. The Rev. Charles S. Seaman became the first regular pastor as soon as he was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania June 23, 1882. The church was admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod and given missionary assistance for ten years. A Sunday School was organized at once, with the pastor as superintendent and Nathan M. Eisenhaur as his assistant. Services were held in G.A.R. Hall for about a year, and then steps were taken to build a church. A lot on the corner of Huran Avenue and Eleventh Street was secured. A brief ground breaking ceremony was held at which time Mr. J. P. Mahaffie turned the first spade full of dirt. On June 3, 1883 the cornerstone of a small frame church was laid by Pastor Seaman. The dimensions of the structure were 24 x 50 feet and was surmounted by a cupola and cross. It had a seating capacity of 230 persons. The feast of dedication was held November 11, 1883. A charter was obtained February 18, 1884.

When Pastor Seaman resigned, December 12, 1886, a call was extended to Rev. L. M. C. Weicksel, who began his long and fruitful pastorate February 20 1887. During the years that followed he saw the little mission develop into a great church of recognized worth and power. One of his first acts was to pay a church debt of $1,500. Securing the permission of the congregation, he then built a commodious study at the rear of the church. The women of Zion's had been organized by Pastor Seaman as the Ladies Working Society; these were organized in 1888 as the Ladies Aid, and have rendered great help in the financing of the church.

During the great flood of 1889 many of the members of Zion's suffered heavily, and the high waters reached a depth of four feet in the church. The damage to the church property, however, was quickly repaired. A number of the older members withdrew in 1889, when the Swedish Church was organized, but the relations between the two churches has always been most cordial. A Young Peoples' Society was organized in 1893, which changed its name to Luther League in the following year.

The congregation gradually outgrew the little frame church of 1883, and a building fund was quietly gathered for the purpose of erecting a more adequate house of worship. The frame church was moved to the rear of the lot and converted into a parish house; then a contract was let for the building of a new church. The first contract was let for $12,795 April 17, 1906, but the contractor failed, and a second contract was let for the completion of the church. The cornerstone was laid August 5, 1906, and the church dedicated April 5, 1908. It was built of stone, cruciform in plan and Gothic in style, and ranks among the most churchly buildings of the synod. Zion's Brotherhood was organized May 15, 1908, and the Women's Missionary Society on October 10, 1911. This congregation has always been noted for good church music, and one of the very happy events in their history was the dedication

of a good pipe organ May 23, 1920, when the address was delivered by Dr. T. B. Roth, former President of Thiel College.

In 1923 the church authorized the purchase of the Anthony Mohr property adjacent to the Parish House on Eleventh Street. This property for some years was rented but was eventually remodeled to a certain degree, connected to the Parish House by a doorway and utilized for the Sunday activities of the Primary Department. In the fall of 1927 the congregation reluctantly accepted the resignation of Pastor Weicksel due to failing health. He was made pastor emeritus after having served Zion's faithfully for forty years. A major improvement to the church occurred in 1928 when, under Pastor I. N. Dundore, the congregation authorized the decoration of the interior and the installation of a new lighting system and a new cement walk was laid around the property. On March 16, 1936, a disastrous flood did considerable damage to the church property. Damage was done to the pipe organ, pews, carpet and floors. The water at its highest peak came to the top of the altar.

Under the leadership of Pastor D. R. Poole, who was installed June 15, 1938, the choir was vested, the Luther League re-organized, and tower chimes installed, as well as a new heating plant in the church which also supplies the parish house. In 1953 the Luther League was again revived and re-organized and its first constitution adopted. A fund for a new carpet had been started and sufficient money was raised to purchase the needed carpet and padding plus re-decorating the entire interior of the church. The work was completed in time to entertain the Northeast Conference Convention of the Women's Missionary Society on November 7, 1953, and a re-dedication service was held on November 8, 1953 with Dr. Lawrence Himmelman, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, as the speaker.

In 1955 the annex to the Parish House was torn down and the Primary Department moved to the cleaned and newly painted basement of the church where a new heating unit had been installed.

At a special congregational meeting the church was authorized to purchase the double house and lot on Eleventh Street adjoining the property already owned by the church in order to provide more adequate parking facilities when such property is for sale. In 1955 a new concrete stairway was constructed to the basement of the church from the front sidewalk. In May, 1956 the large square stone pillars in the basement of the church were removed and replaced with round steel posts, and the floor painted as well as curtains provided for separating the various classes held there. Plans are now under way to celebrate this fall, 1956, the 75th anniversary of the organization of the congregation.

Pastors who have been called and served Zion's are: Charles S. Seaman, 1881-1886; L. M. C. Weicksel, 1887-1927; I. Noble Dundore, 1928-1931; Harvey M. Erb, 1932-1937; Donald R. Poole, 1938-1942; Daniel L. Bergstresser, 1943-1948; James H. Goss, 1948-1951; Ernest J. Hoh, Jr., 1952-1953; Nelson G. Fattman, 1953 —.

Reynoldsville Paradise 1840

THE Paradise Lutheran Church of Henderson township, Jefferson County is not to be confused with the sister congregation that existed nearby for a decade or two. This later congregation, St. Peter's, was a member of what was then called the Alleghany Synod, and what is now a part of the Central Pennsylvania Synod.

The Paradise Congregation had its beginning when the first three families came into this area in 1829. For three years their nearest neighbor lived in Punxsutawney. Other Germans followed. The first religious services were held in homes and barns. The congregation was organized in 1840. A schoolhouse was the first permanent place of worship. The first church building was a log structure which stood above the school on a hill. The date given for this is 1854. Nothing remains of the building but the adjoining cemetery is still cared for by the people of the community and is known as the McCreight Cemetery.

The Lutherans and Reformed built the church and one group worshipped in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The Lutherans were the first to start building a church of their own. Going 1.3 miles south east they built the present edifice in 1874. Then the Reformed began building a new church. The people were poor and most of the finances were given by David, George and Frank Pifer.

The synodical associations of this congregation have been varied. The records of the congregation during the nineteenth century were lost. It is said that the congregation was first a member of the synod that became the Evangelical Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States. This and other synods joined with the Missouri Synod in 1871 in forming the Synodical Conference. In 1882 this Synod withdrew from the Conference.

The Paradise Lutheran Church went with the pastor and the other churches of the parish into the Missouri Synod. With the two synods it was doctrinal. With the congregation it was largely a matter of language. It followed the pastor and the German Lutheran congregation in Punxsutawney, and the Salem Church in Brady township, which were then in the same parish. At a later date the congregation in DuBois was organized and two parishes were formed. DuBois and Punxsutawney were in one and Paradise and Salem in the other. This relationship lasted from 1904 until 1935. In 1937 Paradise became a member of the Pittsburgh Synod and the Reynoldsville Parish.

There were renovations made to the plain rectangular frame structure. The narthex and belfry were added in 1916. In 1920 the congregation began digging the basement. The women dug and carried earth along with the men. The altar and pulpit were rearranged in the chancel in 1937.

The pastors who have served this congregation were: John Althouse till 1833; Engelder, 1833-1834; Brandt, 1851-1852; A. Peter Engers, 1856-1858; J. B. Grovenmiller, 1860-1865; Splender, 1865-1866; Waltz, 1866-1868; Bauch, 1868-1873; J. M. Meisnner, 1873-1877; Engelder, 1877-1891; G. J. Mueller, 1891-1905; G. A. Mueller, 1905-1906; William Knoke, 1906-1911; Theodore G. Frank, 1911-1915; Theo. J. Gesswein, 1915-1921; C. A. Hinney, 1924-1930; William Von Spreckelsen, 1931-1935; N. F. Fattman, 1935-1941; Arthur Foellner, 1941-1943; L. A. Wagner, 1944-1951; H. E. Vensel, 1951-1953; E. A. Felker, 1953 —.

Reynoldsville (Hormtown)
St. Paul's 1883

FOR many years the Lutherans of this community attended services in Emerickville. While Rev. J. G. Young frequently preached in German in private homes, he made no effort to organize a congregation. The first regular services were conducted by Rev. Joseph Welker 1862-1866 when he preached once a month in the schoolhouse. In the summer season services would be held in the adjoining woods. All his services were conducted in English.

The synodical controversy in the Emerickville Church interferred with these services, and no attempt was made to establish a congregation until 1883, When Rev. J. H. Kline organized the Chestnut Grove Lutheran Church with 25 members. Henry Kroh donated a fine chestnut grove of three-fourths of an acre in which a frame church was built for $2,000. The cornerstone was laid June 17, 1883, and the church dedicated by Pastor Kline October 28, 1883.

Here the congregation worshipped for twenty-nine years, and then decided to relocate. A lot in Hormtown was donated by Jonathan Smith, on which the old frame church was rebuilt. It was rededicated at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church by Pastor Paul I. Morentz June 2, 1912. A number of members objected to this relocation and withdrew from the church; but nearly all returned in later years.

This congregation has continued to the present having at times nearly one hundred members. In 1955 the basement, after many years of working a little at a time, was completed.

Pastors who have served this church are: J. H. Kline, 1883-1884; Jacob Ash, 1884-1885; Emanuel Cressman, 1887-1892; Jacob Ash (supply), 1893-1894; P. W. Metzenthin, 1895-1897; Otto Poesche, 1897-1898; E. Haecker, 1898-1899; George Johannes, 1900-1901; J. W. Myers, 1902-1908; C. E. Rudy, 1909-1910; P. I. Morentz, 1911-1912; G. J. Diener, 1912-1916; Supplies 1916-1919; J. N. Wetzler, D. D., 1919-1921; Supplies, 1921-1922; R. L. Leatherman, 1922-1927; J. L. Marvin, 1927-1934; Nelson G. Fattman, 1934-1941; Arthur Foellner, 1941-1943; L. A. Wagner, 1944-1951; H. E. Vensel, 1951-1953; E. A. Felker, 1953 —.

Reynoldsville Trinity 1874

WHEN Rev. Isaac Brenneman became pastor of the Northeastern Mission of the Pittsburgh Synod, with headquarters at Ridgway, he extended his labors over a large territory. Coming to Reynoldsville, he organized the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity with 20 members September 26, 1874. The first services were held in a house beyond Big Soldier Run. From 1878-1884 services were held in a rented hall. A lot was donated by Thomas Reynolds, on which the cornerstone was laid by Pastor Brenneman September 17, 1875, but hard times and the great fire halted the work, so that no services were held for five years. The lot, never formally deeded, reverted to the owner.

The church was reorganized by Pastor J. H. Kline in February 1881, with 30 members, but by this time the building of the railroad had shifted the growth of the town, and it was found advisable to secure another site. Three members bought a lot on Jackson street for $300, and donated it to the church. On this lot a frame church was built at a cost of $2,300, which was dedicated by Pastor Jacob Ash September 13, 1885.

During the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Kline the parish consisted of Reynoldsville, Emerickville, Chestnut Grove, and DuBois, but DuBois withdrew in 1885. During the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Myers, 1903-1908, the congregation increased to 120 members, but the constant changing of pastors has interfered seriously with its proper development. For several years only summer supplies were available.

The parsonage at 424 Hill St. was purchased in 1943, for the price of $2,000. The parish, now consisting of Trinity, St. Paul's and Paradise, proceeded to make extensive repairs.

The basement was enlarged and completely renovated during the three years beginning with 1949. The new organ and the remodeled chancel were dedicated in April of 1953. The congregation rededicated the church in September of 1954. This marked the building of the narthex with choir loft and of the two walls and front in brick, at a cost of $28,000.

The pastorates in their order were: Isaac Brenneman, 1874-1875; vacant, 1875-1881; J. H. Kline, 1881-1884; Jacob Ash (supply), 1884-1885; Emanuel Cressman, 1887-1892; Jacob Ash (supply), 1893-1894; P. W. Metzenthin, 1895-1897; Otto Poesche, 1897-1898; E. Haecker, 1898-1899; George Johannes, 1900-1901; J. W. Myers, 1902-1908; C. E. Rudy, 1909-1910; P. I. Morentz, 1911-1912; G. J. Diener, 1912-1916; Supplies, 1916-1919; J. N. Wetzler, D. D., 1919-1921; Supplies, 1921-1922; R. L. Leatherman, 1922-1927; J. L. Marvin, 1927-1934; Nelson G. Fattman, 1934-1941; Arthur Foellner, 1941-1943; L. A. Wagner, 1944-1951; H. E. Vensel, 1951-1953; E. A. Felker, 1953 —.

Ridgway First Evangelical 1872

(See Plate 33)

REV. Isaac Brenneman founded this church. Accepting a commission from the Pittsburgh Synod he entered the field in the fall of 1870, seeking the scattered Lutherans of Warren, Cameron, McKean, and Elk counties, holding regular services at Tidioute, Ridgway, Emporium, and Bunker Hill. The most promising fields were Tidioute and Ridgway, the first service in the latter place being held in German, December 4, 1870. The first communion was held September 21, 1871, when 14 children were baptized and 25 persons received the sacrament of the altar. Regular services were held every two weeks, alternating between German and English until April 14, 1872, when Pastor Brenneman organized a congregation of 35 members. A constitution was adopted at this time.

A class of 15 young people was confirmed April 28, 1872, so that the original members really numbered 50. Prompt plans were made for the erection of a church. The cornerstone was laid June 29, 1873, and the church dedicated October 24, 25, 1874. A Swedish address was delivered by Rev. J. Melander, a German address by Rev. G. A. Bruegel, and an English address by Dr. Henry W. Roth on the occasion of this dedication.

After the resignation of Pastor Brenneman in 1878, Rev. John Sander took charge of the parish and served first as a student supply, and then as regular pastor from 1880-1885. By the efforts of Pastor Sander the church debt was paid and extensive repairs made on the tower. Besides holding two services in Ridgway every Sunday, this pastor made regular trips to Arroyo, Centerville, Earlyville, Highland, Wilcox, Rolfe, and Johnsonburg. Sometimes, when the journey could be made no other way, he travelled on foot in order not to disappoint the people.

Early in 1884 a number of members withdrew to form the Swiss Reformed Church. Soon after the incorporation of the congregation on May 26, 1884, the con-

stitution recommended by the General Council was adopted. When Pastor Sander resigned, August 16, 1885, he left a united German congregation of 150 members, for whom one English sermon was provided every month.

From 1894 to 1897, when Emanuel Cressman was pastor, he preached at Portland Mills, Brandy Camp, and the German settlement. The silver anniversary of the parish was celebrated August 22, 1897, when a Good Shepherd window, placed in the chancel, was dedicated. This pastorate was closed in death October 6, 1898, and the body of Pastor Cressman was taken to Bethlehem, Pa., for interment.

The pastorate of Joseph Hart Orr began on March 28, 1899 and continued until May 1, 1906. During this time much was done to solve the language question. The Sunday School was made entirely English and the graded system of the General Council introduced. All the services of the church were held in English, except the first and third Sundays of every month, which services were in German. The Luther League and Ladies Aid Society were organized and the envelograph system of finance was introduced.

Rev. Franklin E. Strobel held his first service on February 6, 1910, but conducted no services in German until April 10, when it was decided to hold an English chief service every Sunday morning, but to give the Germans a service on the first and third Sundays every month at an earlier hour.

In this same year a movement started looking toward a new church. Pastor Strobel gathered a building fund of $5,000, but the letting of the contract was not authorized until May 4, 1913. The cornerstone was laid October 5, 1913, and the completed church dedicated by Pastor Strobel August 23, 1914. It was built of brick and stone, furnished according to Lutheran usage, at a cost of $21,000. Pastor Stroble resigned April 25, 1916, and the congregation then invited student Oscar J. Warnath to spend his senior vacation in the parish. His services were so pleasing to all that he became the regular pastor after his ordination in the following year. When the last dollar of debt was paid, March 2, 1919, a service of special thanksgiving was held. The language question was finally settled May 11, 1919, since which time no German services have been held.

A two-manual Teller-Kent pipe organ was installed at a cost of $4,000 and dedicated by Pastor Warnath January 30, 1921. During the summer of 1923 the old parsonage adjoining the church was torn down, and a fine home erected for $11,000.

In 1926, during the pastorate of Luther A. Krouse, the painting "Christ in Gethsemane" was placed on the chancel wall by Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Juers in honor of Rev. and Mrs. O. J. Warnath. Also during the pastorate of Luther Krouse, W. Stuart Anderson decided to study for the ministry. A few years later, during the pastorate of Peter Brath, Paul Schmiedel decided to enter the ministry.

In 1937 the pipe organ was rebuilt and Vox Humana stop was added at a cost of $2,000. By 1943 the church was redecorated and the final debt of $3,300 was paid on the parsonage. The 65th, 70th, and 75th anniversaries were celebrated in 1937, 1942 and 1947 respectively. In 1957 the membership of this church stood at 972 with 392 communing.

Pastors who have served the church are: Isaac Brenneman, 1872-1878; John Sander, 1880-1885; A. F. Schaeffer, 1885-1888; A. R. J. Graepp, 1888-1892; Emanuel Cressman, 1893-1898; J. H. Orr, 1899-1906; J. I. Shaud, 1907-1909; F. E. Strobel, 1910-1916; O. J. Warnath, 1917-1922; L. A. Krouse, 1922-1928; Peter Brath, 1928-1935; Paul E. Keyser, 1936-1943; R. C. Lauffenburger, 1944-1950; Arthur L. Ruths, 1950-1952; Maurice M. Smeal, 1952-1955; Paul E. Walthour (supply), 1954-1956; W. Gordon Joyce, 1956 —.

Ringgold (Timblin) St. James' 1831

THE section of Jefferson County in which St. James' is located was settled in the early years by Pennsylvania Germans from the eastern part of Pennsylvania, along with a few that came direct from Germany. These Germans, who were about equally divided between the Lutheran and Reformed faith, settled in this area mainly during the period between 1828 to 1835, although one family arrived in 1818.

The spiritual needs of these pioneers were taken care of in the early years by travelling missionaries sent out by the eastern synods who held services in the barns of the members. In 1831 Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichert provisionally organized a congregation, but, because of his own large parish, he could devote little time to the new congregation. A log church was dedicated in December, 1833 by the next pastor, Rev. Henry David Keyl, who like Rev. Reichert had too large a parish to devote much time to this congregation. This log church which he dedicated stood in the front yard of Reuben Wonderling, a short distance east of the present church, until as late as 1890. Rev. Keyl resigned in 1838 and he was succeeded by Rev. John George Young. Rev. Young, who served the congregation from 1838 until 1867, built up a strong German Church in his parish which at one time consisted of six churches and five preaching stations.

Although the name of St. James' Church does not appear on the records of the synod before 1857, it is certain that the congregation was in existence at least twenty-six years before that date. Thus St. James' is given first place among the Evangelical Lutheran churches of Jefferson County as the earliest church. The first burial ground used by the German settlers was located near North Freedom, but this was abandoned in 1838 when the present burial ground was secured from the Holland Land Company, consisting of 1½ acres in the northeast corner of the David Haas farm.

English services were introduced by Pastor C. A. Fetzer, the successor of Pastor Young, who served the congregation from 1868 to 1875. In 1873 Elias Powell and wife conveyed to St. James' a plot of 17½ perches adjoining the burial ground. Under the leadership of Pastor Fetzer a frame church was built and the entire cost of the church was subscribed at the dedicatory service. A new constitution was adopted in 1874 in which the name of the congregation is given as "Die Deutsch-Englische Evanagelische Lutherische St. Jacobus Gemeinde".

Rev. Jacob Ash, the successor to Rev. Fetzer, came as a student supply, and after his ordination in April, 1876, accepted a call as the regular pastor. He served St. James' Church until February 1, 1884, when the Ringgold Parish was formed. This new parish, consisting of St. James', Jerusalem, and St. Matthew's, extended a call to Pastor J. N. Wetzler, who remained with them until 1889. In 1885 a new parsonage was bought in the town of Ringgold for the sum of $600. Later two adjoining lots to the east and west were added to the parsonage ground. This parsonage was repaired at a cost of $600 during the pastorate of Rev. C. J. Streich, and during the pastorate of Rev. C. S. Brewer the parsonage was transferred to Timblin. The frame church of 1873 served the congregation for 26 years, when it was replaced by a better building at a cost of $1500. The new church had an actual value of $3000, but much of the labor and material were donated. On October 15, 1899, the church was dedicated by Pastor C. J. Streich, with Rev. C. A. Fetzer preaching in German and Rev. G. W. Spiggle preaching in English.

In 1921 there was another rearrangement of parishes, in which Jerusalem Church was transfered to Rural Valley Parish, and St. Mark's of Eddyville received in its place. During the pastorate of Rev. M. B. Goldner, 1937-1940, the basement was

put under the church and gas furnaces were installed. During the pastorate of Rev. G. M. Wilson, 1941-1951, the church building was covered with shingles, and wallboard and hardwood flooring were installed in the nave and sanctuary.

In 1953, during the pastorate of Rev. James B. Slingluff, St. James' was incorporated and a new constitution was adopted. This new constitution was preceded by four other constitutions, two in German script and two in English. The parsonage was also remodeled during the pastorate of Pastor Slingluff. In 1955 a Wurlitzer organ was installed and the kitchen of the church was renovated and a new water system installed. In July 1956 the 125th anniversary of the church was observed.

The following pastors have served this church: G. A. Reichert, 1831-1832; H. D. Keyl, 1832-1838; J. G. Young, 1838-1867; C. A. Fetzer, 1868-1875; Jacob Ash, 1876-1884; J. N. Wetzler, D. D., 1884-1889; A. H. Kinnard, 1890-1893; Herman Ruphoff, 1894-1895; C. J. Streich, 1896-1901; A. F. Schaeffer, 1902-1903; J. M. Axe, 1904-1921; C. S. Brewer, 1921-1926; H. G. Reynolds, 1926-1927; E. R. Yohe, 1927-1929; H. C. Glander, 1929-1933; C. W. Pryor, Jr., 1934-1936; M. B. Goldner, 1937-1940; G. M. Wilson, 1941-1951; J. B. Slingluff, 1952-1953; James T. Costanzo, 1953-1955; E. T. Cochran, Jr., 1955 —.

Ringgold (Eddyville) St. Mark's 1848

VERY little is known concerning the work of the church among the German settlers of this little community, but pastors of the Reformed Church are believed to have been instrumental in developing the religious life of the pioneers. It is believed, although it is not definitely recorded, that a union church was organized by Rev. Jacob F. Dieffenbacher of the Reformed Church some time between 1839 and 1842. However, it is known that Pastor J. G. Young of the Lutheran Church organized a union church in Eddyville in 1848. Although these people were greatly neglected in the early years, they remained true to their faith. Pastor Young, who ministered to them irregularly from 1848-1864 in German apparently did not consider them as one of his regular congregations.

Services were held in different homes, usually in that of J. D. Smith. Occasional communion services were held in a barn one and a half miles northwest of Eddyville and catechetical classes were held in Foreman's School. Due to the large area over which the homes of the congregation were scattered, two Sunday Schools were held in the early years. One school was held in Foreman's schoolhouse, with Archie Glenn as superintendent; the second school was held in Fleming's schoolhouse, and later in Rumbaugh's schoolhouse, with Mr. Fleming as superintendent. The two schools were united in 1865 when the first church was built.

In 1900 the school was reorganized on a Lutheran basis by Rev. Charles E. Berkey, after being conducted as a union school in its early years. Ground for the first church was secured from Reuben Hoffman, and was conveyed to the trustees of the German Lutheran and Reformed congregations in September, 1866. The church building, which was built in 1865, was used by the two congregations until 1903, when the Lutherans withdrew and built a new church in Eddyville at a cost of $3,000, the cornerstone being laid June 18, 1902. The church was dedicated, free of debt, June 7, 1903, by Pastor Berkey, assisted by Rev. S. D. Daugherty and Rev. Wilson Selner.

No further history is recorded until 1925 when it is noted that a basement was built under the church building. In February, 1944, an altar was installed in the

church, and in March, 1946, electricity was installed in the church. Also during the pastorate of Rev. Guy M. Wilson, the church was redecorated in 1947 and in the following year a well was drilled for water. Under the present pastor, a new constitution was adopted by the congregation.

The following pastors have served St. Mark's: J. G. Young, 1848-1864; Henry Gathers, 1864-1868; C. A. Fetzer, 1868-1871; W. E. Crebs, 1871-1873; David Townsend, 1873-1875; Wilson Selner, 1875-1881; E. A. Best, 1883-1886; Vacant, 1886-1890; A. H. Kinnard, 1890-1893; W. J. Bucher, 1893-1897; F. J. Matter, 1897-1900; C. E. Berkey, 1900-1903; W. B. Claney, 1903-1907; H. C. Salem, 1907-1909; W. E. Sunday, 1911-1915; E. N. Fry, 1915-1917; C. L. Quinn, 1917-1919; J. M. Axe, 1920-1921; C. S. Brewer, 1921-1926; H. G. Reynolds, 1926-1927; E. R. Yohe, 1927-1929; H. C. Glander, 1929-1933; C. W. Pryor, Jr., 1934-1936; M. B. Goldner, 1927-1940; Guy M. Wilson, 1941-1951; James B. Slingluff, 1952-1953; James T. Costanzo, 1953-1955; Edwin T. Cochran, Jr., 1955 —.

Ringgold (Cool Spring) St. Paul's 1838

ONE of the oldest churches of the county was organized in Abraham Hoch's barn near Sprankle's Mills by Pastor J. G. Young in 1838. During this same year, a log church was built by Reformed and Lutherans, which was dedicated as St. John's. When the log church was outgrown, a frame church was built on the ridge about two miles from Sprankle's Mills and dedicated in 1849. Many of the Lutheran pioneers of this section of Jefferson County received the sacrament at the hands of Pastor Young in both of these churches, and Lutheran pastors held services in the latter as late as 1871.

In 1871 the Reformed and Presbyterians united in building St. Matthew's Church in Worthville, in which the Lutherans of old St. John's held services from 1871 to 1884. This congregation was reported to the Pittsburgh Synod at St. Matthew's Church by Rev. C. A. Fetzer, 1873-1874; Rev. Jacob Ash, 1875-1885; and Rev. J. N. Wetzler, 1883-1884. Pastor Wetzler reported 84 members in 1883 and 16 in 1884, which means that the majority of the congregation withdrew to organize the Cool Spring Church.

A lot of 163 perches was bought from Thomas A. McKinstry and David Buck for $35.10, on which a frame church was built for $2,800, and dedicated in January, 1885. Pastor Ash organized the congregation in 1884 with 42 members, many of which belonged to the Himes, Reitz, and Stahlman families whose descendants comprise the church today. From 1884 to 1890 the church was part of the Red Bank Parish; then in 1890 it became part of the Ringgold Parish receiving services every two weeks.

Due largely to the failure of a gas well on the church property, this small congregation is no longer a supporting member of the Ringgold Parish and is now a preaching station served by the pastor of the Ringgold Parish.

The pastors of this congregation were: Jacob Ash, 1884-1889; J. H. Ritter, 1889-1890; A. H. Kinnard, 1890-1893; Herman Ruphoff, 1894; C. J. Streich, 1896-1901; A. F. Schaeffer, 1901-1903; J. M. Axe, 1904-1921; C. S. Brewer, 1921-1926; H. G. Reynolds, 1926-1927; E. R. Yohe, 1927-1929; H. C. Glander, 1929-1933; C. W. Pryor, Jr., 1934-1936; M. B. Goldner, 1937-1940; G. M. Wilson, 1941-1951; J. B. Slingluff, 1952-1953; J. T. Costanzo, 1953-1955; E. T. Cochran, Jr., 1955 —.

Rochester Grace 1854

(See Plate 34)

IN THE summer of 1854, Dr. William A. Passavant preached his first sermon in the paint shop of the car works in the little village of Rochester at the junction of the Ohio and Beaver Rivers. After holding services here for about a year, the only school in the town was secured as a preaching place. On April 21, 1855 two lots on the corner of Adams and Ohio Streets were received from the Rochester Land Company and on July 3, 1855 the cornerstone for the first church in Rochester was laid. The building was constructed of gravel and lime and for this reason was frequently referred to as the "Gravel Church". The material used in the construction was not very durable and from time to time parts of the building had to be rebuilt. It was finally placed under roof in the summer of 1886. Although the building was unfinished, the windows, consisting of white muslin screens and the pews of planks laid on empty nail kegs, the enthusiastic Sunday School under the leadership of George Delo marched from the schoolhouse to take possession of the new quarters. The chandeliers for the church were donated from the steam boat which had burned and the tower bell was given by rivermen. Of the bell, Dr. Frederick Bowers writes in the fiftieth anniversary program: "For the sweet-toned bell that calls us to worhsip, we are mainly indebted to the late Capt. Hazlip and his wife. They were warm personal friends of Dr. Passavant, and desiring to do something in a special way for the new church, they conceived the idea of collecting money for the bell. And so, as the Captain went up and down the Ohio in his boat, 'The North Star,' he hailed every riverman in sight, between Pittsburgh and New Orleans, and never failed to get a silver contribution for a bell in the new church. In due time the bell was cast by one Andrew Fulton, of Pittsburgh; and tradition has it that some of the silver thus gathered formed part of the casting. In view of this origin, the bell is known as 'The Rivermen's Bell'."

Dr. Passavant continued to serve the congregation without compensation until the spring of 1863. In that year the Rev. Henry Reck, who assumed charge of the newly established Orphanage for Girls then situated on the property now occupied by the Passavant Homes for Epileptics, became the pastor and guided the growth of the congregation until the fall of 1870.

Near midnight of December 23, 1883 the church was destroyed by fire and nothing saved but the bell. To make matters worse, the insurance was held in companies that had just become insolvent. There was also an indebtedness of $1500. On the following Sunday, Dr. Passavant came to Rochester and preached an inspiring sermon to the congregation in St. Paul's German Lutheran Church of Rochester, which had been put at the disposal of the congregation. It was decided to rebuild. Dr. Henry W. Roth, assisted by the Rev. L. Hippo, rendered valuable pastoral services to the congregation during this emergency. On April 25, 1886 the new brick building was dedicated by Dr. Roth and the Rev. William P. Shanor, assisted by Dr. Passavant, F. C. E. Lemcke and J. H. Cline. The offering of the day made possible the payment of the indebtedness in full.

During the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Myers, from May 13, 1886 to April 25, 1892, the congregation continued its remarkable growth. The Rev. J. W. Myers introduced the liturgy, organized the Ladies' Aid, and was zealous in promoting the Sunday School. He also reorganized the 'Mission League' which was helpful in gathering funds for foreign mission work. While in Rochester, Pastor Myers organized Christ Lutheran Church in Beaver Falls and Trinity Lutheran Church in New Brighton.

The Rev. John F. Heckert began his pastorate on July 1, 1893, after a vacancy of fourteen months. During his ministry many souls were won to the church. In October, 1895 the Mission League was changed into the Luther League. Pastor Heckert was succeeded by Dr. John E. Whitteker on September 1, 1898. Dr. Whitteker introduced the use of the robe and other Lutheran practices. He led the congregation to new heights in financial support of the work of the church and during his pastorate a parsonage was built on Jefferson Street. On June 16, 1901, Dr. Frederick A. Bowers preached his first sermon as pastor. The congregation grew rapidly under his ministry and it became necessary to erect a new building. On October 13, 1907 the present Gothic stone church with its stately spire was dedicated to the glory of God and the service of man. Dr. Bowers' fruitful ministry came to a close on May 1, 1909.

During the pastorate of Dr. A. Miles Merkham, from July 1, 1909 to December 1, 1917, the work at St. Luke's Mission in East Rochester was begun. Dr. Robert W. Doty became pastor on June 1, 1918. Through his vigorous efforts, the $27,000 indebtedness on the church was liquidated and the mortgage burned during the seventieth anniversary celebration in 1924. Additional property adjoining the church was also purchased in anticipation of future Sunday school needs. The pastorate of Dr. Doty came to a close on May 1, 1928 and the leadership of the congregation passed into the hands of the Rev. H. Reed Shepfer who became pastor on November 1, 1928.

Sensing the need for a parish house, he recommended the purchase of additional property and thus ample room was acquired for a complete unit of church, parish house and parsonage. In 1929 a missionary council was organized for the purpose of supporting a unified missionary program. At that time, the support of Rev. and Mrs. Edmund G. Wood in the India mission field, a support which is still carried on, was undertaken. Home Mission objectives were also accepted. In 1931 a relief program for the citizens of the community, under the leadership of the pastor, using the Sunday school room as headquarters, was organized. In 1932 a congregational missionary society including men, women, and children was organized. The pastorate of the Rev. H. Reed Shepfer came to a close on August 1, 1940 after he had been elected to the presidency of the Pittsburgh Synod.

Pastor Shepfer was succeeded by the Rev. Elmer A. Ortner, who began his ministry on May 1, 1941. During his pastorate the congregation was led into a deeper understanding of the service and into a greater appreciation of the important ministry of music. Pastor Ortner will be remembered for his hundreds of letters to the sons of the congregation in the armed forces during World War II. In 1950 the cornerstone for the stone parsonage adjoining the church was laid. Dr. Ortner's consecrated ministry came to a close on June 1, 1952. The Rev. Robert C. Klingensmith became pastor of the congregation on January 8, 1953. The centennial of the founding of the congregation was celebrated from October 24 to 31, 1954, closing with a mortgage burning ceremony on the Festival of the Reformation.

The following men have served this church: William A. Passavant, D. D., 1854-1863; Henry Reck, 1863-1870; Henry W. Roth, D. D., 1870-1878; Charles H. Hemsath, 1878-1883; Henry W. Roth, D. D., 1884-1886; J. W. Myers, 1886-1892; John F. Heckert, 1893-1898; John Whitteker, D. D., 1898-1901; Frederick A. Bowers, D. D. 1901-1909; A. Miles Merkham, Ph. D., 1909-1917; Robert W. Doty, D. D., 1918-1828; H. Reed Shepfer, D. D., 1928-1940; Elmer A. Ortner, D. D., 1941-1952; Robert C. Klingensmith, 1953-1955; William J. Welther, 1956 —.

Rochester St. John's United Evangelical Protestant (Non-Synodical) 1835

IN THE year 1835 about thirty families from German Alsace and Germany proper, who had settled in Beaver County, Pa., agreed to organize a congregation. It was to be a United Evangelical congregation in policy as some of its prospective members had been reared in the Lutheran Church, others in the Reformed Church, and still others in the United Evangelical Church. The decision was reached to erect a church building at once. The same year an acre of ground was purchased for $10.00 from Swiss F. Burry. The church has derived the familiar title of Burry's from this man's name.

In January of 1836 Rev. E. S. Winter, an Evangelical minister, was elected as pastor, and the block-church was dedicated June 6 of the same year, every family furnishing a number of logs from which to erect it. Since the congregation had grown to 150 members in 1850, the need for a new church building was sorely felt.

But it was not until nine years later, May 29, that the new brick church was dedicated. Rev. Winter served as minister of the congregation until January, 1880, his being the longest pastorate. He was followed by Rev. F. L. Dietrich, a Lutheran minister. During his pastorate the congregation purchased an acre of ground, adjoining the cemetery, for burial purposes. In the fall of 1885 the fiftieth anniversary of the congregation was observed. An acre of land was bought and a parsonage built for $2,346.00.

One year later, August 23, 1888, the building was destroyed by fire. The congregation decided to replace it, and, out of its ashes, arose the present parsonage. In December, 1887, the church was legally incorporated under the name, "German United Evangelical Protestant St. John's Church." Rev. C. Borchers, also a Reformed minister, was called as pastor November, 1891. During his ministry many changes took place. One of the greatest improvements was the introduction of the English language. The first societies of the congregation were organized. Rev. Borchers served until May, 1909, his being the third longest pastorate.

The same month Rev. Theo. F. Fischer, a minister of the German Evangelical Synod, was elected pastor. Many and varied were the improvements and changes that came about during his pastorate. The church was remodeled in 1913, and room for a primary department added. On May 5, 1918, due to anti-German feeling, it was decided to have the services in English. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the congregation was observed June 19, 1910, and the ninetieth September 20-23, 1925.

As the membership increased, a building committee was organized May 2, 1920, but it was not until November 18, 1928 that the third church building, brick trimmed in limestone, was dedicated, the total cost being $64,233.69. After a long and fruitful pastorate, the second longest, Rev. Fischer resigned December 26, 1931. He was followed by Rev. H. N. Doerres. During his pastorate the one hundredth anniversary of the congregation was observed, June 19, 1935. Rev. Clare S. Hayner, a Lutheran minister, was called as pastor December, 1936. The benevolent program of the church was increased. The building fund deficit of $10,000.00 was paid, and a new building fund started. Perpetual care for the cemetery was introduced.

Rev. Herbert N. Brant, a Lutheran minister of the Pittsburgh Synod, became pastor September 1, 1946. Under his leadership the spiritual and material life of

the congregation has been developed and strengthened. The confirmed membership stands at 477 with seventy-five percent communing. A church school addition was dedicated March 5, 1950 at a cost of $28,500.00, and the church interior redecorated in 1953 for $4,250.00. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the present church structure was observed November 15, 1953. The organizational life of the congregation has been furthered very much with the addition of The Brotherhood, Women of the Church, Luther League, and Vacation Church School. While having a rather lengthy history, this church has never become denominational in character, the reluctance to do so seeming to spring from some contacts which the earliest members had with the church in their mother country. In spite of the fact that the congregation has always willingly followed the leadership of the pastor in his denominational position, this quite naturally has been more or less of an obstacle during the course of the years both for the ministry and the lay membership.

The following pastors have served this parish: E. S. Winter (Evangelical), 1835-1880; F. L. Dietrich (Lutheran), 1880-1885; C. Theo. Kurg, 1886; M. F. Dumstrey (Reformed), 1887-1891; C. Borchers (Reformed), 1891-1909; Theo. F. Fischer (Evangelical), 1909-1932; H. N. Doerres, 1932-1936; Clare S. Hayner, (Lutheran), 1936-1946; Herbert N. Brant (Lutheran), 1946-1958.

Rochester St. Paul's (Non-Synodical) 1868

ST. Paul's Church is the result of a merger between two German congregations, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Bridgewater, and the German Reformed Church, Rochester. Both congregations had a small membership and it was rather difficult to support their own ministers. A joint committee was appointed and the merger effected in the summer of 1867.

The Germans of Beaver and vicinity were organized into a congregation by Pastor Jacob Hoelsche of the Ohio Synod as early as 1835. It was such a free church, however, that Lutheran pastors found it hard to serve. This congregation was made the nucleus of the Beaver Mission, established by the Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1847. The first pastor of the Mission was Rev. Casper Braun, who suffered many indignities and was compelled to resign in 1850. His successor was Pastor H. C. Kaehler, who was able to lay the foundations of a genuine Lutheran work. A frame church was bought from the Baptists in 1853, located in Mulberry Street and dedicated as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church by Pastor Kaehler. When he resigned in 1858 he left a church of 30 members. His successors were Rev. Frederick Zimmerman, 1859-1861, and Rev. J. G. Phul, 1861-1863.

In 1886 a new mission parish was formed of Rochester and East Liverpool, Ohio, to which Rev. E. F. Giese was called. The services at Rochester were held in Grace Lutheran Church until the time of the merger with the German Reformed Church at Rochester, and the erection of their own House of Worship, the present St. Paul's Church.

The beginnings of the Rochester German Reformed Church date back to 1856, but little is known of its earlier history. The congregation owned a small frame church in Adams Street, opposite the present Municipal Building. No church records prior to 1862 are available. According to these records the following ministers served this congregation: Rev. C. Scheel, 1862-63; Rev. Jos. Othman Zwicker, 1864; Rev. K. Walz, 1865-66, and Rev. J. Hoeflinge, 1866-67.

Early in the Spring of 1867 negotiations regarding a proposed merger and the establishment of a German Lutheran Church in Rochester got under way. Both congregations resolved to sell their present properties and the money be paid into the treasury for the building of a new church. The name of the new congregation was to be, "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church." The Rev. E. F. Giese, D. D., then principal of Thiel Hall, Phillipsburg (Monaca), which later became Thiel College, was called as the first pastor of the united congregation. John Strack was elected as Sunday School Superintendent. A Constitution was adopted on August 22, 1868 and signed by 42 men. The first Church Council was elected at the organization meeting in the summer of 1867.

The Reformed Church property was sold for $275.00. The Lutherans made up their share by contributions, because they could not sell their property. On September 24, 1867, two lots located at the corner of Adams Street and Connecticut Avenue were bought for the sum of $575.00, from Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Guyer. A contract was let for the erection of a two-story brick building at a cost of $3,000.00. The church had a seating capacity of about 250-300 people, and a comfortable basement room for Sunday School purposes.

The cornerstone was laid September 13, 1868, by the Rev. William A. Passavant, D. D., Rev. H. Reck, and Rev. C. A. Frank. Dr. Giese had resigned in July, 1868, before the cornerstone services could be held. Rev. C. J. Steinbach was called in August, 1868 and served until February, 1870.

Before the building of the church was completely finished, the new congregation moved into the church during December, 1868, and held its first Christmas service. It is claimed that St. Paul's Church introduced the first decorated and illuminated Christmas tree at that Service, which attracted many people, young and old. Because of the illness of Rev. Steinbach, the official dedication services of the new church were delayed until July 25, 1869. Pastor Steinbach was assisted by the same pastors who were present at the cornerstone laying. At the time of the dedication, a debt of $1,400.00 was resting on the congregation, but in a few years this debt was paid off. The parish at that time consisted of Rochester, Phillipsburg (Monaca) and East Liverpool.

The next pastor of St. Paul's Church was Rev. Peter Born, whose pastorate extended from July, 1870 to April, 1876. During this time a new parish alignment was made, consisting of three congregations: St. Paul's, Rochester; St. Peter's, Monaca; and St. John's, Freedom. The same arrangement existed until 1901. Under the administration of Pastor Born the constitution of the church was printed — the same as adopted in 1868 with only minor changes. The same year, 1871, a charter was secured. The minutes of the quarterly church council meetings preserved, beginning with April 16, 1871. All other minutes of the previous three years, with the exception of the organizational meeting, seemed to be lost. The pastorate of Rev. Born was fruitful and helped much to stabilize the young congregation. The records show that he was a man of good order and discipline.

Witih the coming of Rev. F. C. E. Lemcke (1876-1901) a new period of marked progress and stability in the life of the congregation began. He was sent here by the President of the Pittsburgh Synod to supply the vacant congregation during the summer months until a regular pastor was called, while still a student of the Mt. Airy Theological Seminary. He pleased the people of St. Paul's Church so well that the congregation extended him a call to become their regular pastor, August 20, 1876. He accepted the call after he returned to the Seminary to complete his theological training. Rev. M. F. Dethleff of Sharpsburg served as supply

pastor during the absence of Rev. Lemcke. On April 1, 1877, Rev. Lemcke returned after the completion of his theological course and faithfully served the parish until December, 1901, when poor health compelled him to give up the work he loved. This was his first and only parish. He had moved to Philadelphia with his family where he died on July 13, 1902.

Many valuable and extensive improvements were made under the leadership of Pastor Lemcke. The present parsonage was built upon the church lot in 1882. Stained glass memorial windows installed, a gallery added in the rear of the church auditorium in 1889. Three years later the church steeple was built. The Ladies' Aid Society donated new Church Bells, costing $276. A new Felgenmaker Pipe Organ was donated by the Thiel family and dedicated on April 24, 1898. A new heating system was installed.

The Rev. G. A. Fechner was called as successor of Pastor Lemcke. His pastorate was rather short, from December 1, 1901 to October, 1904. He served only St. Paul's Church, Rochester, since St. John's Church, Freedom, and old St. Peter's Church, Monaca, had their own pastors, beginning with this period. During his pastorate, regular English evening services were added to the German morning services. New church pews were bought and installed at the cost of $290, in the summer 1903.

On December 18, 1904, the Rev. Robert Barner, then pastor of the Kittanning Lutheran Church, was called and faithfully served the congregation until the time of his sudden death, January 19, 1925. He was well-known as a powerful preacher and outstanding linguist and educator. In addition to his parish work — which included again St. Peter's Church, Monaca — he also served as instructor of German, French and Latin at the old Beaver College (then at Beaver, Pa.) and the Rochester High School.

Lightning struck the church steeple on June 22, 1907, leaving considerable damage to the church tower and slate roof. The steeple was rebuilt that same summer at a cost of $736. The Ladies' Aid Society was reorganized by Pastor Barner on October 8, 1905. The young people were organized the same year as a Luther League. A modern new steam heating system was installed in the church in the Fall of 1909. Sunday School services were conducted in English only, since the beginning of 1914.

The Rev. Hans O. F. Simoleit, while enrolled as a post-graduate student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, received a unanimous call from the joint churches — St. Paul's, Rochester, and St. Peter's, Monaca — and has served the parish continuously since February 1, 1925.

For the second time the church steeple was struck by lightning on May 25, 1927, causing damage of about $1,000.00. Fortunately, a new metal switch box had been installed in the vestibule of the church a few months before which caught the electrical discharge, and prevented greater damage through fire. The steeple was rebuilt that same year. The Cross and steeple have been lowered several feet in order to save expenses. The tall, slim slate roof was replaced with a copper roof.

On Sunday afternoon, February 9, 1947, St. Paul's Church experienced its third fire which might have been disastrous but for the time of day and the quick action of the local Fire Department. The fire started in the flue, caused by the hot and burning soot, eating its way along the window sill, wainscoting and choir-loft. Considerable damage was done by fire and water in this area as well as in the basement. The pipe organ, though damaged by water, could be saved. The cost amounted to over $3,000.00.

Extensive improvements have been made throughout these years. A gas furnace replaced the coal furnace for its steam heating system of the church. New carpets, hardwood floors, modern lighting system, landscaping, electric outdoor bulletin board, gas furnace for parsonage, were some of the improvements.

Since February, 1943 all morning services were held in English only. At first, German services were still offered during the afternoon hours, but the response was not encouraging and was soon discontinued.

Pastors who served this church since the merger of 1867 are. E. F. Giese, 1867-1868; C. J. Steinbach, 1868-1870; Peter Born, 1870-1876; F. C. E. Lemcke, 1877-1901; G. A. Fechner, 1901-1904; Robert Barner, 1905-1925; Hans. O. F. Simoleit, D. D., 1925 —.

Ross Township (Highcliff) Christ 1955

CHRIST Lutheran Church, Highcliff, Ross Township was organized by the Board of American Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod. The area lying west of West View and situated three miles from Bellevue, was developed in recent years with more than four hundred homes. This district was canvassed by Seminarian Leroy J. Dobbe of Hamma Divinity School under direction of Dr. Paul E. Daugherty, Home Mission Superintendent, during the early summer of 1954. The canvass indicated sufficient interest for establishing a church, since many of the people were either unchurched or had become inactive. A new house, located at 101 Ivy Road, was purchased by the Board as the temporary headquarters. The basement was transformed into a chapel seating about a hundred. First-floor rooms were used for Beginners and Primary Depts. of the Sunday School and for group meetings.

The first service was conducted by Seminarian Dobbe and Dr. Daugherty August 1, 1954 with attendance of 95 persons, many of whom, however, were well-wishers and visitors. A Sunday School was organized the following Sunday, and immediately prospects looked bright for a successful mission congregation.

Pastor A. W. Stremel was engaged by the Board to serve as supply pastor and entered the field on a part-time basis September 1. The work of gathering charter members began in earnest. The Women of the Church were organized and became a member of the Synodical Missionary Society. A Men's Club was organized and became a working unit for remodelling the house into a chapel.

The congregation was organized on Sunday afternoon, January 16, 1955, the service being conducted in Emanuel's Lutheran Church, Bellevue, Rev. Lester M. Utz, Pastor. Also participating in the service of organization were Dr. G. L. Himmelman, President of Synod, Rev. Luther Fackler, President of Central Conference, Dr. John B. Knisely and Dr. Paul E. Daugherty.

Pastor and people had set a goal and had prayed for 100 charter members. When Pastor Stremel read the names of the charter members, exactly one hundred persons came forward and crowded into the spacious chancel. It was also significant that with the exception of three families, both husband and wife responded. Many families which had been separated previously, or in which only the husband or wife had been associated with a church, were now united. Of the hundred charter members fifty were either members of a Lutheran Church or had a Lutheran background, while the other fifty came from many different denominations.

At this organization meeting Pastor Stremel accepted the unanimous call of the congregation to become its permanent pastor. His resignation from the Chaplaincy of Western Penitentiary took effect March 1 and on that day he entered upon the full-time pastorate. The charter was secured March 4, 1955, the corporate name of the congregation being: "Christ Lutheran Church of Ross Township, Pennsylvania."

Attendance at Sunday morning services averaged 70 during 1955, while Sunday School attendance averaged 62. Membership has now grown to 150 and the Sunday School Enrollment is 125.

The Board of Missions of Synod purchased a plot of 4.886 acres of land on Peony Avenue, on which the church will be constructed. The location is across the street from the new Highcliff School, now under construction.

On February 3, 1956 the congregation gathered in the St. John's Lutheran Church, Cumberland Road, to share the First Anniversary Dinner and to announce plans for the gathering of the first year building fund. A goal of $15,000 was set and will probably be met.

Plans are in progress for the erection of the first unit of the church building. With the promise of new building projects in the district, there is the hope that Christ Lutheran will grow into a strong congregation within a few years. Missionary projects have been stressed from the beginning and work among the children and youth are considered important factors in the development of this mission church in the suburban area.

Ruffsdale (Hunker) St. Matthew's 1902

FOR many years this community was regarded as being part of the Seanor Parish. When the Rev. Jonathan Sarver was pastor at Seanor's, he held services in the Hunker schoolhouse, and in August of 1902 he organized St. Matthew's Church. Frederick M. Hunker and M. R. Welty were elected deacons, and J. J. Houser, secretary-treasurer. After the resignation of Pastor Sarver the congregation found itself isolated, but was made a part of the Youngwood Parish in 1905. This relationship continued until 1922, when St. Matthew's joined with Zion's Church, Ruffsdale, in what is known now as the Ruffsdale-Hunker Parish.

No effort was made to build a church until July 11, 1911, when it was decided to build on a triangular lot donated by Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Welty. Although without a pastor at that time, the work was begun. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor H. K. Shaner, assisted by the Rev. Ludwig Beisecker on October 1, 1911. Pastor Ludwig Beisecker took charge of the Parish on December 1, 1911, and dedicated the church building on June 30, 1912.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Luther E. Fackler the Hammond Electric Organ was purchased.

As of May, 1956 the congregation numbers 408 baptized members, 282 confirmed members, 195 communing members.

The pastorates were as follows: Jonathan Sarver, 1902-1903; W. A. Bilheimer, 1905; H. K. Shanor; 1906-1911; Ludwig Beisecker, 1911-1914; E. O. Graham, 1914-1922; J. F. Flegler, 1922-1924; August F. Schilling, 1924-1926; Wallace E. Arnholt, 1926-1934; Philip W. Seiberling, 1934-1938; Luther E. Fackler, 1938-1949; Frederik P. Nissen, 1949-1952; Robert E. Kromer, 1952-1958.

Ruffsdale Zion 1903

EARLY in 1903, when Rev. W. R. Swickard was pastor of the Mount Pleasant Parish, the Lutherans of Ruffsdale launched a movement for the building of a church in that town. The chief reason offered was the difficulty which the people of Ruffsdale had in attending church in the country in bad weather. The leaders in this movement decided that it would be good policy to build the church before effecting the organization. The cornerstone of the church was laid in August, 1903, and the building was dedicated by Pastor Swickard on July 17, 1904. Soon after the dedication a congregation of 45 charter members was organized, the majority of whom came from the "Swope" and "Seanor" congregations. Many hoped that all the members of "Swope Church" would attend services in the town, but the old associations were too strong. In 1905, Ruffsdale, St. John's and Mount Pleasant united to form the Mount Pleasant Parish. Services were then held every Sunday afternoon, following the sessions of the Sunday School. Another change was made in 1916 when Zion and St. John's were formed into the Ruffsdale Parish. Under this arangement alternate morning and afternoon services were held at Zion Church. Still another change was made in 1922, when Zion Church, Ruffsdale, and St. Matthew's Church, Hunker, came together and formed the Ruffsdale-Hunker Parish.

During the pastorate of Rev. G. L. Himmelman the cellar was dug out and fitted up as a Sunday School and social room, with a small room fitted as a kitchen. This project cost $2,500, but from the start the basement was always damp and unpleasant. This presented a major problem and was not completely solved until 1953. During the pastorate of Rev. J. F. Flegler, a parsonage was built at a cost of $11,000; it was dedicated on Thanksgiving morning, 1923.

During the pastorates of the Rev. Philip W. Seiberling and the Rev. Luther E. Fackler, the Hammond Electric Organ and the Carrilonic Chimes were purchased. During the pastorate of the Rev. Frederik P. Nissen an extensive remodeling and renovation program was begun . . . which was not to be completed until several years after the pastorate of Rev. Robert E. Kromer had begun. This program included the installation of a new gas heater, and a new portion added to the building which made room for a new furnace room and rest rooms for both men and women. The kitchen was enlarged and remodeled; the old furnace room was incorporated into the large Sunday School room; and the bricks on the exterior of the church were repointed. The total cost of this program was $12,000.

As of May, 1956 the congregation numbers 264 baptized members, 205 confirmed members, and 162 communing members.

The pastorates were as follows: W. R. Swickard, 1904-1905; R. L. Leatherman, 1905-1916; Luther Miller, 1917-1917 (resigned to become a chaplain in World War I); G. L. Himmelman, 1919-1922; J. F. Flegler, 1922-1924; August F. Schilling, 1924-1926; Wallace E. Arnholt, 1926-1934; Philip W. Seiberling, 1934-1938; Luther E. Fackler, 1938-1949; Fredrik P. Nissen, 1949-1952; Robert E. Kromer, 1952-1958.

Rural Valley First 1901

THE Rev. S. J. McDowell organized First Church with fourteen members on August 11, 1901. Rural Valley and Pleasant Union constituted a parish which was served by Pastor J. W. Tressler from March 1, 1902 until September 1, 1906. On March 14, 1903 a three story building on Maine Street was bought for $2,800. The first floor of the building was used for services.

After the resignation of Pastor Tressler the congregation was without a pastor for seven years. It seemed as though the church would perish. However, in 1912 the congregation was accepted by synod as a mission. Under the capable leadership of Pastor C. F. Gephart the churches were built up and given needed encouragement.

On February 25, 1913 this church exchanged properties with the Reformed church. The newly acquired church was brick veneer and valued at $5,000. The Reformed parsonage on the adjoining lot was bought in the following year. After the resignation of Rev. W. S. Hinman in 1920 the congregation passed through very difficult times. The future seemed hopeless. At this point the Jerusalem congregation was brought into the parish and the Rev. W. L. Price was called to take charge of the three churches. Under this arrangement all three churches were better off.

On July 7, 1929 the church was badly damaged by lightning. Until repairs could be made afternoon services were held in the Presbyterian Church. On September 30, 1930 the repaired church was ready for rededication. In the interim, on January, 1930, the congregation had become self-supporting.

Fourteen years later, on June 23, 1944, a tornado shattered the church completely leaving a mass of brick and lumber. Only the tower of the church remained standing. Even the parsonage was moved five inches off its foundation and twenty five to thirty windows were broken. The parsonage needed to be completely papered and painted inside and out. The garage, which had been blown away, was replaced by a brick garage. Dr. Shepfer, president of the synod, sent a letter to the churches of the synod asking for help to the stricken congregation. Generous gifts from both the synod churches and the neighboring churches aided in the rebuilding. On November 4, 1945 Dr. George E. Bowersox, president of the East Conference, laid the cornerstone. The church building was dedicated on June 29, 1947 by Rev. Clarence E. Butler. At the time of dedication there were no pews, no carpet or organ. All these had to be added later.

The pastors who have served this church are: J. W. Tressler, 1902-1906; Supplies, 1906-1913; C. F. Gephart, 1913-1918; W. S. Hinman, 1919-1920; William Weicksel (supply), 1921-1922; W. L. Price, 1922-1926; A. G. Wolfe, 1926-1934; Clarence E. Butler, 1934-1950; Harold S. Knoll, 1950-1951; L. Paul Mueller, 1952-1957.

Rural Valley (Wayne Township)
Jerusalem 1833

THE first record of German Lutheran services being held in this community began about 1818, when the Rev. John M. Steck, riding on horse back from Greensburg, held intermittent services at the home of Jacob Beck, one of the widely scattered German settlers in this locality.

The first pastor to preach regularly at Jacob Beck's was the Rev. G. A. Reichert, whose ministry extended from 1828 to 1837. During this time the Beck congregation separated; one group moving into the Patterson Schoolhouse and the other group holding services in the Bernard Reedy Home, one mile north west of Goheenville. The latter group, which eventually became known as the Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, met on January 21, 1833 and elected officers.

On June 24, 1840, the Jerusalem Congregation, along with a German Reformed Congregation, acquired five acres of land near the northwest corner of Wayne Township, upon which they built a log church. The two congregations held services there for about thirty years during which time the Reformed Congregation ceased to exist.

On August 27, 1870, the congregation leased an acre of ground from Jacob Kammerdiener upon which they erected a frame building 30 x 40 at a cost of $1,600.00. This structure was dedicated on October 23, 1870. Rev. Michael Schweigert preached in German and Dr. Henry W. Roth in English.

The cornerstone for the present church was laid September 23, 1906, during the pastorate of the Rev. John M. Axe. The building was finished at a cost of $5,000.00, and dedicated June 16, 1907.

Although the congregation organized in 1833, it was not until 1952 that it was formally incorporated.

In 1954, the congregation began construction of a concrete block parish hall 30 x 50 to be used by the various auxiliaries of the church. The building is now in service.

The following pastors have served the Jerusalem Church: G. A. Reichert, 1833-1837; John George Young, (occasional supply), 1838-1840; John George Young, 1840-1867; Henry Gathers (assistant English pastor), 1864-1866; C. A. Fetzer (supply), 1868; Michael Schweigert, 1869-1880; J. H. Kline, 1880-1883; J. N. Wetzler, Ph. D., 1884-1889; A. H. Kinnard, 1890-1893; H. Ruphoff, 1894-1895; Carl J. Streich, 1896-1901; A. F. Schaeffer, 1902-1903; J. M. Axe, 1904-1921; William Weicksel (supply), 1921-1922; W. L. Price; 1922-1926; A. G. Wolfe, 1927-1933; Clarence E. Butler, 1934-1949; Harry O. Harner (ret.) (supply), 1950; Harold S. Knoll, 1951; Edwin B. Boyer, (supply), 1952; L. Paul Mueller, 1952-1957.

Rural Valley Pleasant Union 1830

FROM 1828 to 1836 Rev. G. A. Reichert ministered to the German Lutherans of this section of Armstrong county. He held his first service at the home of Jacob Beck in Wayne Township. Beginning in 1834 Pastor Reichert began to hold services in the barn of Martin Schrecengost. These services continued until 1836.

After the departure of Pastor Reichert, such services as the Lutherans enjoyed were either held at Martin Schrecengost's or at the Schaum schoolhouse. The greater part of the Germans in this vicinity, however, were Reformed. Even some of the members of Pastor Reichert's little flock went with the Reformed. Rev. Jacob Zimmerman held a service in Martin Schrecengost's barn, but no organization was effected.

In 1850 a Reformed congregation was organized by Rev. Frederick Wise. In 1856 this congregation undertook to erect a new church, but they were divided on the question of a location. Rev. Wise handled the situation in such a partisan manner that a portion of the congregation withdrew, built a church at the cross-roads, and called Lutheran pastors to assist them when Rev. Wise refused.

The cornerstone of this church was laid by Rev. G. A. Reichert and Rev. Michael Schweigert October 12, 1857, the former preaching in German and the latter in English. The church was dedicated by the same pastors January 10, 1858. It was built on land of Benjamin Geiger and Jacob Turney, where the Clarion and Franklin roads cross, and for that reason has been known locally as the "Cross-roads Church." The church ground contains one acre and one hundred and forty-three perches, and was regularly conveyed at a later date by the children of the donors. The church was built of frame, 36 x 46, with a single aisle and a high pulpit.

For several years the light for evening services was furnished by tallow dips, placed on the pulpit and around the walls, but these were soon replaced by oil lamps. After the dedication, at the suggestion of Pastor Schweigert, the congregation was reorganized as an Evangelical Lutheran Church. The first Lutheran confirmation service was conducted May 16, 1858, when five young people were confirmed.

Rev Schweigert remained pastor until May 1, 1862, when he sent for Rev. Jacob H. Wright, a neighboring pastor and introduced him to the congregation in these words: "Dear breddern: I am a very busy man. I have seven or eight congregations. I cannot serve you any longer; so I give you over to Brudder Wright, and he is now your pastor. And so, my people, I bids you farewell." This strange election was never questioned, and it marked the beginning of a pastorate that continued for twenty-six years.

At a congregation meeting January 2, 1890, it was decided to erect a new church. Committees were appointed, and the members of the church did much of the work themselves under the supervision of G. W. Stoops. The old church was moved to one side, where it was used as a place of worship until the new church could be completed. The cornerstone was laid July 31, 1890; the dedication took place March 1, 1891. This church was built of frame at a cost of $3,000. The church was chartered May 8, 1890 as the Pleasant Union Lutheran Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the General Synod.

Numerous alterations and additions have been made to the original building. During the pastorate of W. L. Price oil lights gave way to gas lights and a large

bell was installed, the gift of James Gallagher of Apollo. During the pastorate of A. G. Wolfe the belfry was repaired and the steeple lowered. During the pastorate of C. E. Butler a basement was dug out and completely furnished. A new chancel was built and chancel furniture installed. This chancel was dedicated June 16, 1940. In the following year electricity was put in the church. In 1957 there were 102 confirmed members with everyone communing that year.

The following ministers have served this church: Michael Schweigert, 1858-1862; J. H. Wright, 1862-1888; J. W. Hutchinson, 1888; Samuel Krider, 1889; J. W. Hutchison (supply), 1889; S. V. Dye, 1889-1893; William Hesse, 1893-1897; J. W. Tressler (supply), 1898-1899; J. A. Flickinger, 1899-1900; Joseph Minto (supply), 1900; J. M. Hankey, 1900-1902; J. W. Tressler, 1902-1906; J. K. Hilty (supply), 1907; H. W. Maguire, 1909-1910; J. G. Koser (supply), 1911; Student W. R. Fitzgerald (supply), 1912; C. F. Gephart, 1913-1918; W. S. Hinman, 1919-1920; William Weicksel (supply), 1921-1922; W. L. Price, 1922-1926; A. G. Wolfe, 1926-1934; C. E. Butler, 1934-1948; Harold S. Knoll, 1950-1951; L. Paul Mueller, 1952-1957.

Saegertown (Venango) First 1803

GERMAN settlers located along the banks of historic French Creek about the present site of what is now Venango as early as 1879. Many of these were Lutherans. "They came from far and near usually on foot, taking off their shoes and stockings, if they had any and forded Broadford Rapids." Often they met for service in a barn on the farm of Jacob Straw located near by.

The first pastor came to the field in 1803 in the person of Rev. P. Muckenhaupt "Who preached for them quite often from 1803 to 1808." From 1808 to 1814 a few supply preachers carried on the work intermittently. In 1814 the Rev. Peter Rupert became their regular pastor. He served until 1816 and was succeeded by the Rev. Carl Wilhelm Colsen. During Pastor Colsen's one year as pastor, he organized the congregation and built the first church out of logs. Poor health hindered this godly man and he passed away after one year of remarkable service. This log church was the first Lutheran Church in northwestern Pennsylvania. It was called "The Mother Church."

The Lutheran planting grew. In 1817 the Rev. J. C. F. Heyer spent a few months here organizing still further at Venango and at Meadville, Pa. A parsonage and grounds were purchased that year.

Pastor Heyer was followed by the return of the Rev. Peter Rupert in 1819 who served the congregation for three years.

The Rev. Phillip Meyerhoeffer, a converted Roman Catholic Priest, ministered to the Venango Church from 1822 to 1826.

From 1827 to 1829, the Rev. Nicholas Scharretts of Indiana, Pa., served as pastor. The Rev. William Shultz of Erie, Pa., served from 1829 to 1832. During his ministry he increased the membership to 112. These were glorious years in the church's history. During all of these years the services were conducted in German.

In 1830 to 1831 the Rev. Much supplied the church. From 1831 to 1842 the Rev. Elihu Rathbun was the pastor. English services were introduced in 1837. On September 23 of that same year the congregation adopted their first constitution.

From 1842 to 1847 the congregation was in a somewhat disorganized state. The Rev. J. D. Nunnemacher became pastor as he could use both languages. He was pastor from 1842 to 1846. When the Pittsburgh Synod sent their Missionary Superintendent, Rev. Henry Zeigler, into the field, he reorganized them into an English congregation, July 18, 1847 to May 24, 1850. He also organized a Sunday School. There were 55 members when he took charge of the congregation, but the temperance clauses in the constitution caused a bit of confusion and loss.

His successor was the Rev. John A. Nuner, 1855-1858. During his pastorate a parsonage was built. The next three pastors were Rev. Henry Weicksel, 1855-1858, Rev. Isaiah Delo, 1858-1861, and Rev. W. B. Bachtell, 1861-1866. During the latter the membership increased to 135. His successor was the Rev. D. M. Kemerer, who served Venango, Highfield and Saegertown together from 1867 to 1871. When the last named church asked for the entire time of Pastor Kemerer, Drakes Mills, Mosiertown and Venango congregations united to form Venango Parish and extended a call to the Rev. Philip Doerr, (1871-1873). His successor was Pastor George Gaumer.

Pastor Gaumer began his ministry April 1, 1874. Efforts were then made to build a new church. Solomon Lesher — a member — was approached for a subscription. He asked if it would be a General Synod Church. When learning that it would be a General Council body, he refused to give. Trouble followed. Twenty-three members were expelled from the church and thirty-two more followed. Fifty-eight of the protestants applied for admission to the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod under the name of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Venango, and were so received, October 7, 1875. A lawsuit followed for possession of the property. Judge Trunkey of the Crawford County Court decided that, inasmuch as the General Synod party had left the old church and effected a separate organization the property belonged to the General Council party. The costs ($375) were placed on the plaintiffs. This led the General Synod party to build a new church which was dedicated as "The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Venango" by Pastor Delo October 21, 1877.

Through the generosity of George P. Delo, father of the pastor, an excellent parsonage was secured. On October 10, 1879, Pastor George Gaumer issued "A Call in Time of Need", and sufficient funds were gathered to build a new General Council Church. This building was dedicated by Pastor Emanuel Cressman, November 27, 1881. Two rival congregations were thus established in a limited field. The final result was disastrous for both.

During the division the following pastors served the two congregations:

GENERAL COUNCIL — George Gaumer, 1874-1880; Emanuel Cressman, 1881-1886; J. H. Ritter, 1887-1889; J. H. Orr (Supply), 1890; G. W. Critchlow, 1892-1895; J. Q. Waters, 1895-1903; Johnathan Sarver, D. D., 1903-1907; G. J. Diener, 1908-1910; T. B. Roth, D. D., (Supply), 1911-1912; Vacant, 1912-1918.

GENERAL SYNOD — Isaiah J. Delo, 1875-1880; Eli Miller, 1880-1887; S. W. Young, 1888-1893; J. H. C. Manifold, 1894-1895; J. K. Hilty, 1895-1898; Payson Young, Ph. D., 1900; S. L. Hershiser, 1901-1902; J. M. Wonders, 1902-1903; Supplies, 1903-1905; Vacant, 1905-1918.

The vacancy in Zion Church was due to weakness — not more than eight members being enrolled at the end. The vacancy of the First Church was due to its isolation — its fifty members not being able to support a pastor.

Then came a period of the synodical merger and the First Church was permitted to represent the community in the newly formed Crawford County Parish in 1918. The remaining members of Zion Church held a legal meeting May 7, 1921, conveyed their property to the Pittsburgh Synod and disbanded. In 1923 their property was conveyed to the Presbyterian Church by the Synod and the net proceeds given to "Bethesda". The Presbyterians could not hold the property long and so later sold the church to the Methodists — who own it at the present time. It would be well to state that during the period of from 1903-1918 the First Church had as their supplies The Reverend Barnhart (1904-1906), The Reverends Jones, Hartman, and Dr. T. B. Roth until 1914. The Rev. Merle Kunkelman (1914-1918), Rev. Arthur Hays, D. D. (1919-1921) as well as other supplies. The records are very scanty for this entire period.

From 1924 thru to 1932 Rev. R. W. Yeany, Rev. Critchlow, Dr. T. B. Roth, D. D., and Rev. Paul Roth ministered to the congregation. Under these ministers Venango joined the Saegertown congregation — forming the "Saegertown-Venango Charge" as it exists until this date.

On July 1st, 1932 the Rev. J. B. Miller became pastor. He, at once, set to work reorganizing the congregation, as the membership had decreased to but seven members. The charge secured "Salary Aid"' from the Board of Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod. Under pastor Miller the work took on new life. Many improvements were made to the church property.

The Rev. William Mitchell became pastor in 1935. The music of the church was greatly improved thru his ministry. Then followed the Rev. Kenneth Munster in 1938. The membership had increased to about fifty-five by 1941. In May, 1942 the Rev. H. O. Harner became pastor. Many of the members moved and the ill health of Pastor Harner following the death of his wife necessitated his leaving the active work.

On October 17, 1944 the present pastor, the Rev. Ralph W. Baker, began his work. There were twenty--nine members active at that time. In 1946 the parsonage was sold (Pastor Baker occupied the parsonage at Saegertown) and the money in part used to renovate completely the church. New fine stained glass memorial windows were placed and on April 18, 1948 the renovated church was re-dedicated. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. B. Miller. In 1949 a new Estey electric organ was purchased. In 1951 the congregation decided to become self-sustaining after having been a mission since 1932. It was a great step forward.

On April 19, 20, and 21st, 1953 the church celebrated its Sesqui-Centennial anniversary. At that time they were privileged to have as their guest of honor (Sunday, April 19th) the President of the United Lutheran Church in America — The Rev. Franklin Clark Fry, D. D. Further improvements have been made to the church property. In 1955 an automatic gas heating system was installed and the entire basement renovated. At present the church has a membership of 93, confirmed members (Easter, 1956).

Pastors who have served the Venango church since the merger are: Supplies, 1918-1924; R. W. Yeany, G. W. Critchlow, T. B. Roth, Paul Roth, 1924-1932; J. B. Miller, 1932-1935; William Mitchell, 1935-1938; Kenneth Munster, 1938-1941; H. O. Harner, 1942-1944; Ralph W. Baker, 1944 —.

Saegertown Twelve Apostles' 1829

QUITE a few Germans settled along French Creek as early as 1789. About the year 1803 the Lutherans around Venango met regularly and were led by the Rev. P. Muckenhaupt, Saegertown was gaining in prominence. In 1827-29 two Lutheran Missionaries by the names of Lockman and Straw were sent into the territory by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. They held meetings in Saegertown and Pfeiffertown. Their missionary zeal led to quite a group of Lutherans meeting at regular intervals at Pfeiffertown (about two miles from Saegertown). In 1829 The Rev. William Schultz became pastor for the entire area.

On Monday — April 20, 1829 — a very historic meeting was called at the schoolhouse in Pfeiffertown. It had for its object "the building of a church — either at Pfeiffertown or Saegertown". It was there resolved to build a church — "Frame construction 32 x 43 feet, with gallery, at a cost of $1,000." It was further resolved that "125 shares in this church be put on sale at $6.00 each." They then decided that the following Sunday the total sale be reported and the people were to "vote" their preference with each purchase of each share for the location of the church, either at Pfeiffertown or Saegertown." All week the sale of shares made the two places of location a close battle. When the final votes were in, Saegertown won the location by a majority of 33 shares.

Thus on May 2, 1829, it was declared that the "meeting house be built at Saegertown." Land was secured from Daniel Saeger along French Creek where the Reformed Church now stands. The church was built at once. The church was dedicated by Pastor Schultz in 1830.

The Reformed and Methodists who had shared in the use of this church relinquished their claims to the church by 1838.

Pastor Schultz served from 1829 to 1832. From 1832 to 1842 the Rev. Elihu Rathbun preached to the congregation in English and supply pastors came and preached in German. The church was known as "The Jerusalem Church". Pastor John D. Nunnemacher ministered to the congregation, preaching in both English and German from 1842 to 1847. The Rev. A. B. Bierdemann, a member of the Ohio Synod, was pastor from 1857 to 1867.

A new era dawned in 1867 when Rev. D. M. Kemerer of the Pittsburgh Synod became pastor. During his pastorate the congregation gave up holding services in German. This resulted in increased membership. Within a few years the congregation grew to 120 members and were able to support its own pastor. They also sold their interest to the Jerusalem Church to the Reformed congregation for $500, and a new frame building was erected on Erie Street (the present building) and from then on was known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Twelve Apostles. The dedication took place January 9, 1870. The cost of the church was $7,500. A parsonage was also erected to the rear of the church on Euclid Avenue. However, many families moved away and again the church had a struggle for existence. Pastor Kemerer was pastor until 1877. The establishment of Bethesda Home on a farm donated by Mr. W. S. Wise, a member of the Saegertown Church, gave the parish a new outlook as the children from the home were brought into Saegertown for Sunday School.

Then followed a distressing period of vacancy during which the Rev. R. W. Yeany, Superintendent of Bethesda Home, supplied the congregation. This period lasted until 1932 although Rev. Paul Trout served for about a year in 1927.

In 1932 the congregation united with the Venango Congregation and formed a parish. The Home Mission Board of the Pittsburgh Synod granted them salary aid. It was then that the Rev. J. B. Miller was called as pastor and did a fine piece of work of rebuilding both congregations.

On October 17th, 1944 the Rev. Ralph W. Baker became pastor. The membership at that time was 23 confirmed members. The children of Bethesda had their own Sunday School at the Home and a new Sunday School was formed in Saegertown. The congregation grew and the church was completely remodeled. A new Hammond organ was given in memory of Mr. W. S. Wise. In 1951 the congregation became self sustaining after having been a mission since 1932.

On June 27-29, 1954 the congregation celebrated their 125th Anniversary. The President of the Pittsburgh Synod, The Rev. G. Lawrence Himmelman, D. D., was the guest speaker. Since then new heating equipment has been installed in the church and the parsonage completely modernized. The present membership is 106 confirmed members as of Easter, 1956.

Pastors who served the church of the Twelve Apostles' were: Missionaries, 1803-1829; William Schultz, 1829-1832; Elihu Rathbun, 1832-1842; John D. Nunnemacher, 1842-1857; A. B. Bierdeman, 1857-1867; D. M. Kemerer, 1867-1877; A. H. Bartholomew, 1877-1880; Hiram Peters, 1880-1884; G. W. Critchlow, 1884-1895; J. Q. Waters, 1895-1903; Jonathan Sarver, 1903-1907; G. J. Diener, 1908-1910; T. B. Roth (supply pastor), 1911-1918; M. R. Kunkelman, 1918-1920; Arthur C. P. Hays, 1921-1922; R. W. Yeany (supply), 1922-1927; Paul Trout, 1927; R. W. Yeany (supply), 1927-1932; J. B. Miller, 1932-1935; William Mitchell, 1935-1938; Kenneth Munster, 1938-1942; H. O. Harner, 1942-1944; Ralph W. Baker, 1944 —.

Saltsburg — St. James' — 1806

THE first efforts to build a joint Reformed and Lutheran Church in this neighborhood failed because after hauling most of the timbers, the people disagreed as to who should control the church building. Some time after this failure, about 1795, Peter Yockey of the Reformed Church agreed to donate a piece of ground for a church and graveyard, where St. James' Church now stands. For this reason the church was familiarly called "Yockeys" for more than a century. We have reason to believe that a school had already been erected here. In this schoolhouse the first church services were held and meetings called to arrange for a larger church building.

The first Lutheran services were in German, or rather, the Old Holland Dutch of that period. Later they began having services in English, about 1847, and probably had all English services after 1850. The services were held every two weeks. These services were conducted mostly in the afternoon or at night. The church was lit with one or more chandeliers, filled with tallow candles. There were two extra chandeliers on the pulpit. It was not until the late 1860's that kerosene became popular. This was sold then at 70 cents a gallon.

The first log church, built between 1795 and 1803, stood for 33 years, and was used by both Lutheran and Reformed faiths. The present church building, begun in 1837 and completed in early 1838, cost $2200. The bricks were made at a nearby homestead and most of the work was free will. This building was dedicated April 9, 1838, to the worship of God by two pastors, Rev. M. J. Steck and Rev. William Weinel.

In 1845, St. James' had 200 members. St. James' is the mother of all Lutheran and Reformed churches in this vicinity: Boiling Springs, Lutheran and Presbyterian — 1840, New Salem, Lutheran and Reformed — 1850, Maysville Lutheran — 1854, Apollo Lutheran — 1858, Fennelton, Reformed and Lutheran — 1860, Pine Run Reformed — 1862, and Salina Reformed — 1877.

The membership declined until 1930 when the organization was almost disbanded. Under the fine leadership of several pastors the congregation began to show signs of growth. A partition made room for a kitchen and social room. Painting of the interior brightened the outlook and the membership grew to 61. In 1945, electricity was installed. An electronic organ was purchased in 1950. In 1952, through the kindness and generosity of our many Christian friends and neighbors, funds were raised for a new roof. Water is being put into the church now, and bathrooms are being installed. Today St. James' has a confirmed membership of 110 and looks to the future with great faith in Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The pastors who have served St. James' Lutheran Church are: John M. Steck, 1806-1826; Jonas Mechling, 1827-1829; Michael J. Steck, 1829-1847; John Rugan, 1847-1850; J. N. Burket, 1851-1853; C. H. Herst, 1853-1856; Aaron Yetter, 1856-1866; J. D. English, 1866-1868; V. B. Christy, 1868-1876; John Y. Marks, 1876-1879; R. M. Zimmerman, 1879-1884; D. M. Kemerer, 1884-1887; W. G. D. Hudson, 1888-1896; A. M. Strauss, 1896-1901; Supplies, 1901-1905; E. L. Baker, 1905; L. O. Pearch, 1905-1906; Charles D. Miller, 1907-1909; C. E. Schweikert, 1912-1914; F. W. Ash, 1914-1919; A. W. Trumpeter, 1919-1923; J. C. F. Rupp, 1923-1930; W. W. Zundel, 1933-1936; A. E. Speck, 1936-1939; F. B. Haer, 1939-1942; G. C. Vetter, 1943-1947; C. E. Stahlman, 1948-1953; Supplies, 1953-1955; J. T. Costanzo, 1955-1957; Guy M. Wilson, 1958 —.

Saltsburg St. John's 1886

THE first Lutheran pastor to hold services in Saltsburg was Rev. J. N. Burket. While pastor at St. James', 1851-1853, he occasionally held services in Saltsburg, but he never found sufficient interest to justify an organization. For the next 15 years no attempt was made to renew these pioneer services, and then in 1868 Rev. Van Buren Christy began to preach to a number of the members of St. James' who had moved into the town. These services, at first occasional and then regular, were fruitful: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saltsburg was organized by Pastor Christy, assisted by Pastor Jonathan Sarver March 20, 1876, when a constitution was adopted and a church council elected.

When Pastor Christy resigned April 1, 1876 there was a realignment of parishes, and Rev. John Y. Marks became pastor of a parish consisting of St. James', St. John's and Fennelton in September of the same year. The first step toward securing a church building was taken February 28, 1880, when a committee on site was appointed; the second step was taken April 30, 1881, when it was decided to petition the court for a charter. This charter was granted September 11, 1881. After long consideration the committee on site agreed that Pastor Robert M. Zimmerman should buy the McQuiston property and deed part of it to the congregation for the proposed church. This was done, and the congregation secured its present location on Main Street, 50 x 100, November 10, 1881 for $850.

A building committee was then appointed. Plans were adopted for a brick building, the cornerstone of which was laid by Pastor Zimmerman August 8, 1882.

This pastor conceived the idea of making all the bricks needed for the construction of the church, but this, in spite of the hard work involved, did not prove a complete success. The church was finally completed and dedicated December 18, 1883. The cost of the structure was $6,500 which proved a heavy load for the small congregation. The debt was not paid until June 30, 1915.

The membership of St. John's has never been large. The Luther League was organized in 1896; the Ladies' Aid in 1898. Services were held in Slickville for a short time by the pastor of St. John's, but these were abandoned in 1921.

One of the sad incidents in the history of this congregation was the accidental death of Pastor J. G. Schaid. This pastor had just taken charge of the parish, his family still in the South, when he stepped in front of a train August 8, 1909 not one hundred yards from his church. He was killed instantly.

Pastor J. C. F. Rupp became pastor of St. John's in 1926 and organized one of the strongest Luther Leagues in the history of the congregation. Upon his death the Ministerial Association set aside the three hour Good Friday service as a memorial to him. This service is still held in St. John's.

In 1935 plans were drawn up for a parish house. Excavation was completed. The old Fennelton church was torn down and moved to Saltsburg. Most of this lumber was used for the parish building. However, the heavier lumber was lost in the 1936 flood. The stained glass windows of the old church were used in the parish house and a stone marker was placed on the site of the Old Fenneltown church.

During the pastorate of Frederick B. Haer the brick parsonage on Point Street was purchased and a new furnace was installed in the church. More recent improvements to church property were the brick encasing of the Parish House, the installing of an Allen electronic organ, and the addition of new lighting fixtures.

Ministers who have served this parish are: V. B. Christy, 1876; J. Y. Marks, 1876-1878; J. D. Roth (supply), 1878-1879; R. M. Zimmerman, 1879-1884; D. M. Kemerer, 1884-1887; W. G. D. Hudson, 1888-1896; W. E. Bauer, 1897-1902; W. A. Lambert, 1902-1904; Herbert Martens, 1906-1908; J. G. Schaid, 1909; G. C. Stacy, 1910-1911; C. E. Schweikert, 1912-1913; F. W. Ash, 1914-1919; A. W. Trumpeter, 1919-1923; J. E. F. Hassinger (supply), 1923-1926; J. C. F. Rupp, 1926-1933; William W. Zundel, 1933-1936; Albert E. Speck, 1936-1939; Frederick B. Haer, 1939-1942; George C. Vetter, 1943-1947; C. E. Stahlman, 1948-1955; James T. Constanzo, 1955-1957; Guy M. Wilson, 1958 —.

Saxonburg St. Luke's 1870

THIS community was settled by German Saxons from Muehlhausen and Zwickau in 1832. Pastor William Fuehrmann accompanied the immigrants and organized part of them into a German Evangelical Church. One of these Saxons was John A. Roebling who designed the Brooklyn Bridge.

In 1827 the Lutherans of the colony were organized into St. Luke's Church of Hannahstown by Rev. J. G. C. Schweizerbarth. This congregation was listed as Cooper's in the records of the Ohio Synod for that year. A small frame church was built in 1838 but left unfinished until August 30, 1849, when it was dedicated by Pastor David Earhart. Pastor Earhart accepted a call from the English part of the congregation in 1844, and for that reason 1844 is sometimes given as the date of the organization of St. Luke's Church of Saxonburg; but this English congregation was a part of the original organization; therefore 1837 is the correct date.

In 1862 the English congregation attempted to build a church of their own, but they were deeply discouraged by failure. The credit for reviving their interest was due to Rev. J. K. Melhorn who reorganized them as St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church on June 6, 1870. The lot in Saxonburg was donated by John A. Roebling. The cornerstone of a new church was laid by Pastor Melhorn October 5, 1869, and the building dedicated by Pastor J. H. A. Kitzmiller, August 13, 1871. It was built of brick, 35 x 45, at a cost of $2,800.

The parsonage was bought in 1919 for $3,000. From 1844 to 1849 the church was a part of the Leechburg Parish; from 1857 to 1866 it was a part of Butler Parish; from 1869 to 1885 it was connected with Freeport Parish; for many years St. Luke's and St. Paul's constituted a parish to which St. Matthew's was added in 1920.

The cornerstone for the new church was laid on September 25, 1927. The completed church was dedicated by the pastor July 29, 1928 with a full week of celebration. A pipe organ, the gift of Ferdinand Roebling, was dedicated in August of the same year.

Rev. Donald K. Fetterly came as pastor in 1930. An outside bulletin board was immediately placed in front of the church. A new lectern was installed. The debt on the church amounting to $65,000 and the debt on the parsonage amounting to $7,200 were paid in 1941.

In July of 1945 the congregation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its organization; the Rev. H. Reed Shepfer, President of Synod, delivered the address. In 1948 new stained glass windows were installed at a cost of $2,800. The congregation received a gift from Mrs. Eva Knoch of a 50 x 150 lot north of the church for parking purposes. At the same time the congregation voted to purchase two lots west of the church on Main Street and adjoining our present property for the purpose of expansion. These lots cost $15,000.

The following pastors have served this congregation: J. G. C. Schweizerbarth, 1837-1842; John Esensee, 1842-1844; David Earhart, 1844-1849; Supplies, 1849-1857; A. H. Waters, 1857-1861; J. H. Fritz, 1861-1866; Supplies, 1866-1869; J. K. Melhorn, 1869-1871; J. H. A. Kitzmiller, 1871-1881; H. K. Shanor, 1882-1885; Nathanael Scheffer, 1885-1889; C. A. Fetzer, 1890-1891; Philip Doerr, 1891; Herbert Martens, 1892-1895; N. N. Harter, 1895-1901; D. B. Stahlman, 1901-1903; J. A. Beighey, 1903-1908; J. A. Frischkorn, 1909-1911; Herbert Martens (second term), 1912-1921; G. J. Diener, 1922-1926; Elmer A. Ortner, 1926-1930; Donald K. Fetterly, 1930, —.

Saxonburg — St. Paul's — 1866

THE first regular Lutheran services in this community were begun by Pastor J. H. Fritz in 1865, but Pastor Schweizerbarth held German services here at a much earlier date. The first church building was erected by the Covenanters and was known as the Lovejoy Church. This church was bought for $500 September 23, 1865 and dedicated by Pastor Fritz as St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church March 18, 1866. A congregation of 23 members was organized on the same day.

The deed for the property, including one acre and 156 perches was secured, January 7, 1868. Four additional acres were secured later for cemetery purposes. The church was incorporated, March 4, 1868. During the first few years the membership increased so rapidly that the church soon became too small. The cornerstone of the second church was laid by Pastor Melhorn September 20, 1870, and the building was dedicated by Pastor Kitzmiller September 24, 1871. It was built of frame, 43 x 60, at a cost of $4,000. For a long time St. Paul's was connected with Freeport Parish; for several years St. Paul's and St. Luke's constituted Sarver Parish; since 1920 St. Matthew's has also been included in what is known as Saxonburg Parish.

Lately a sizeable building fund has been started with a view to building a parsonage so that the congregation may call its own pastor. For 45 years a Memorial Day service has been held on the Sunday nearest that holiday, when ex-service men from Freeport, Sarver and Saxonburg together with their auxiliary societies attend. Music on these occasions is outstanding.

Pastors who have served St. Paul's are: J. H. Fritz, 1866; J. K. Melhorn, 1867-1871; J. H. A. Kitzmiller, 1871-1881; H. K. Shanor, 1882-1885; Nathanael Scheffer, 1885-1889; C. A. Fetzer, 1890-1891; Philip Doerr, 1891; Herbert Martens, 1892-1895; N. N. Harter, 1895-1901; D. B. Stahlman, 1901-1903; J. A. Beighey, 1903-1908; J. A. Frischkorn, 1909-1911; Herbert Martens (second term), 1912-1921; G. J. Diener, 1922-1926; Elmer A. Ortner, D. D., 1926-1930; Donald K. Fetterly, 1930 —.

Scenery Hill — Bethlehem — 1788

BETHLEHEM Lutheran Church is one of the venerable churches of the Pittsburgh Synod having a continuous record of service from 1791. The church is situated in the open country, about seven miles southeast of Washington, Pennsylvania. When the first Lutherans settled here cannot be determined definitely, but there is good reason to believe that Michael and John Adam Simon, two of the most prominent in the founding of the church, took up lands here by the Tomahawk right before the year of purchase from the Indians (1768). The congregation dates back to March 29, 1788, when Michael Simon and his wife sold two and one-quarter acres of land for church, school and burial purposes. The first building erected was a log schoolhouse of two rooms, one of which was intended as a residence for the schoolmaster. It had a clapboard roof, windows of greased paper, but no floor save the bare earth. It was the first school house of the township, and served also as a place of worship. Petitions sent to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania for a pastor went unheeded until 1791. It was in the old log schoolhouse that Pastor Johannes Stauch began his ministry, confirming a class of thirty-two on October 30, 1791, and administering the Holy Communion.

The second place of worship was also a log building, which was dedicated by Pastors Johann Wilhelm Weber and Casper Semler of the Reformed Church, and

Pastor Stauch of the Lutheran Church November 5, 1797, under the name Bethlehem. Although Reformed pastors ministered to the Reformed of the parish occasionally, there was never a regular pastor of that faith on this field. This log church was used from 1797 to 1846. A large flat stone, said to have lain before the door, marks the site: about seventy-five feet from the present township road and midway between the North and South borders of the present cemetery. Tradition says that this church was heated by a huge fireplace and lighted by grease lamps. A large pole, with a silk pocket on the end, was used to gather the offerings.

Although The Rev. Johannes Stauch is named as the first pastor of Bethlehem Church his residence was at least thirty miles away on a parsonage farm owned by Jacob's Church in Fayette County. Jacob's was the mother church of Bethlehem, the farm parsonage being the center of his missionary ministry for fifteen years. Pastor Stauch radiated out for many miles in all directions to ten or twelve regular preaching points. In 1806 Pastor Stauch moved to Ohio where he organized many congregations and became the first President of what was known as the Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States.

The second man to become pastor of Bethlehem and other preaching points throughout the area was The Rev. Heinrich Weygandt, a nineteen year old boy from Ginger Hill Church, who was licensed by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1809. This faithful pastor served them from 1809 to 1829, when he too removed to Ohio. During these twenty years Pastor Weygandt did not always serve the same congregations, but the records of the Ohio Synod show that in 1826 he was pastor of Bethlehem, Pigeon Creek, Washington, and Ginger Hill of Washington County, Jacob's of Fayette County, and Werner's or North Zion of Allegheny County. In addition to these he had several preaching stations. His successor, Rev. John Brown, served from 1829 to 1836, after which the large parish was divided, Rev. Abraham Weills taking charge of the Washington County congregations.

The coming of Pastor Weills was a turning point in the history of Bethlehem, forasmuch as this pastor was strongly inclined to English services for the young people. The language question was definitely solved within forty-five years after the arrival of the first pastor. The first English entry in the old church record bears the date, September 2, 1832, and the last German entry that of July 2, 1837. Rev. Weills was pastor here when William A. Passavant was a student in Jefferson College and the young man was welcomed as the superintendent of the Sunday School. It is said that he walked or rode horseback from Canonsburg to Bethlehem Church every week for more than a year, in order to render this service. After young Passavant graduated from Jefferson, the school was placed under the care of Michael Moninger, a member of the Disciple Church. It was a community enterprise that seems to have had quite as many secular as religious features, and of course, no doctrinal standards whatever. It did not become a Lutheran school until 1862. One of the members of Bethlehem, Frederick Carstens of Scenery Hill, accompanied Pastor Weills to Pittsburgh in 1845, and assisted in the organization of the Pittsburgh Synod on January 15.

By this time the old log church had outgrown its usefulness, and a new brick church, 32 x 40, was dedicated by Pastor Weills, and Rev. W. A. Passavant, September 17, 1848. It stood near the public road in the northeast corner of the present cemetery. For sixty years it was the meeting-place of some of the deepest sorrows and the highest joys that fall to the lot of man. The older folks delighted in telling of the celebrations that took place under its shadow. The blare of brass bands, the eloquence of glib-tongued orators, the gastronomic artistry of unsurpassable Dutch housewives, and the enormous crowds constituted a never-to-be forgotten experience.

The congregation was incorporated August 24, 1859, but this charter was later amended to conform to certain provisions of the law. An acre of ground was bought from Michael Hildebrand February 4, 1861, which, after being used as a hitching ground for forty-five years, became the site of the present church. A brick parsonage was built at Scenery Hill in 1867 as a cost of $3,000. On March 31, 1886, sufficient ground was bought from Thomas Ross for $400 to complete the burial ground as enclosed by the road.

At the turn of the twentieth century the building of a new church was being contemplated by many of the members. Money was a little more plentiful during this period because some of the members of the congregation had sold the coal rights beneath many of their farms. However, the bequest of Mrs. Sara M. Knestrick in the sum of $100.00 to be used toward the erection of a new church, providing it was completed within five years, seemed to get the building project under way. The building committee was chosen on November 11, 1905, and the cornerstone was laid on September 29, 1906. On July 14, 1907, the present church was dedicated. It was estimated that there were some 7,000 present on that joyful day. The speaker for this event was the Rev. Elmer Krauss, at that time a Professor at the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary. The total cost of the church building and its furnishings was a little more than $15,000.00.

As the years passed a number of improvements were made. When electric lights became popular, the church was equipped with them and the Flegemaker organ, a gift of Andrew Carnegie and R. B. Mowl, was remodeled to work on electric power rather than man power as had been used in the past.

The first plans for the Bethlehem Lutheran Basement Memorial Parish Hall were laid under the direction of The Rev. Henry J. Behrens in the spring of 1945. In January of 1950, the first meeting of the Parish Hall Committee, made up of members from the Church Council, the Ladies Aid Society, The Missionary Society, Sunday Church School and Luther League, was called by The Rev. Walter P. Fetterly. Mr. Henry Fattman was elected as building committee chairman and given full charge over all work, since the church did their own contracting. Most of the work was done by members of the congregation. The first excavating of the basement was done early in February of 1950. At this time a conveyor and dump truck were purchased and put into use. Approximately from two to nine feet of dirt had to be removed from beneath the entire church. The total cost of this project was approximately $15,000.00 which included the installation of two new gas furnaces and the painting of the interior of the church proper. This money was raised by pledges, donations, auctions, a summer festival and banquets served by the Ladies of the church, the Missionary Society and the Ladies' Aid Society. The church kitchen was completely furnished. This project took some twleve years to complete. The dedication of the Parish Hall took place on Sunday afternoon August 4, 1957, with The Rev. Richard F. Price in charge of the service. The Rev. Nelson Fattman, a son of the congregation, was the speaker. On this same day a service of re-dedication for fifty years of use of the present church building was held. The Rev. G. Lawrence Himmelman was the morning speaker.

The pastors of Bethlehem Lutheran Church have served in the following order: Johannes Stauch, 1791-1808; G. Heinrich Weygandt, 1809-1829; John Brown, 1829-1836; Abraham Weills, 1837-1862; James Q. Waters, 1862-1865; W. O. Wilson, 1865-1867; Zenas H. Gable, 1868-1873; John D. Roth, 1873-1878; John W. Myers, 1878-1882; George L. Rankin, 1883-1885; Alfred Ramsey, 1885-1890; Wilson Yeisley, 1891-1899; William Ulrich, 1900-1907; Albert Keck, 1908-1909;

John H. Young, 1910-1912; Wallace E. Arnholt, 1912-1916; Henry F. Obenauf, 1917-1921; I. Noble Dundore, 1922-1927; Ernest S. Proper, 1928-1932; I. Noble Dundore (supply pastorate), 1932-1937; Robert W. Hahne, 1937-1941; Karl E. Kniseley, 1941-1943; Henry J. Behrens, 1944-1947; Walter P. Fetterly, 1947-1952; Robert A. Himmelman, 1953-1955; Richard F. Price, 1956 —.

Scenery Hill Mt. Calvary 1885

THE Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church is located on the second highest point in Washington county, thirteen miles from Washington, Pa., on U. S. Route 40 East in Scenery Hill, Pa. The congregation was organized on the evening of December 17, 1885, in the Bethlehem parsonage located in Scenery Hill which formerly bore the name Hillsboro. The Rev. Alfred Ramsey, then pastor of Bethlehem Church, directed the procedings and became the first pastor of the new congregation. There were twenty-one charter members, most of them bringing letters of dismissal from Bethlehem.

The organization of Mt. Calvary was, however, by no means the beginning of Lutheranism in Scenery Hill. For at least twenty years before that event Lutheran services had been held in the village with greater or less regularity. On July 2, 1847, Adam Weaver and his wife conveyed to Joseph W. Alexander and Frederick A. Carsten "in trust for a site for a house of religious worship, to be enjoyed by the congregations of Presbyterians and Lutherans," the plot of ground upon which Mt. Calvary church now stands. A brick building (the first church edifice in the village founded in 1819) was erected about the year 1850, which came to be known as the Union Church. The Presbyterians controlled the property and opened a mission.

The Lutherans, however, were not altogether inactive. It is probable that during the years 1850 to 1860, Abraham Weills, then pastor of Bethlehem church, preached in the union meeting house occasionally. For a number of years his residence had been in the village. It is known for certain that in 1861 he preached there regularly once a month and continued to hold services for a time after his resignation from Bethlehem in 1862. When the residence of the pastors of Bethlehem church was changed from Washington to Scenery Hill, interest in Lutheran services for the village was quickened. In 1863, during the pastorate of the Rev. J. Q. Waters, Bethlehem congregation made efforts to secure the use of the union church for a service on the first Sunday of each month. The efforts were successful and thenceforth Scenery Hill had both regular preaching and Holy communion according to Lutheran usages.

In the meantime the Presbyterian mission declined and ultimately failed. About 1873 the Presbytery of Washington, Pa., officially abandoned Scenery Hill as a mission point. Immediately after the organization of Mt. Calvary church in 1885, steps were taken to secure a clear title to the property which the congregation was using and to which it had a legitimate claim according to the will of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Weaver. These negotiations were successful. On September 20, 1892, the Presbyterians gave the Lutherans a quit-claim deed to the property. The congregation was now incorporated, the date being November 21, 1892.

During the summer of that year the old brick church was torn down and on August 18, the cornerstone of the present structure was laid. The building was completed during the fall and winter at a cost of $3,500 and dedicated on March 5,

1893. The Rev. Wilson Yeisley was pastor at the time. Six years later Dr. Byron Clark gave to the congregation a fine bell which was dedicated on September 9, 1899.

Church and bell gave faithful services until March 22, 1922, when lightning struck the spire. A stubborn fire followed which was not extinguished until it had destroyed the upper part of the tower, the bell, and a part of the roof of the church. The damage amounted to about $1,500, partly covered by insurance. It was a hard blow to the congregation, which had never been very strong, and particularly so because of the vacancy then existing in the pastorate. But the people rallied loyally and decided to rebuild the parts destroyed and to renovate the whole edifice within and without. This was done at a cost of $2,300. The church was rededicated by Pastor I. N. Dundore October 29, 1922. Greatly encouraged by the restored church the people began to talk about better facilities for Bible school and social purposes. At first the excavation of a basement was discussed. After some reflection and investigation the plan was abandoned in favor of an annex, 30 x 32, to the rear of the church. Building operations began in April, 1926, and by July 11, the structure was ready for dedication, the services being in charge of Pastor Dundore. Electric lights were also installed in both the new and the old parts of the edifice.

In the summer of 1934, the church was covered with brick veneer, the work being paid for by the legacy of $900 from Mr. James Simon. In the spring of 1936, the Ladies' Aid Society provided funds for the repainting of the interior of the church. On July 4, 1937, the people of Mt. Calvary celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of the donation of the site of their church. The climax of this event was the dedication of a handsome solid walnut lectern and two beautiful church Bibles given by James and Weidner Knarr in memory of their parents, Reuben and Blanche Knarr. In 1938 the Mt. Calvary congregation was given one-third interest in the Bethlehem parsonage for the consideration of $1.00.

Although the Mt. Calvary congregation has always been small in number they have always kept their church in a number one condition. Music has always been a favorite part of the church service, but not until the year 1954 could they see their way clear to purchase an electric organ. Numbering about 75 communing members they continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the area.

The pastors have served in the following order: Alfred Ramsey, 1885-1890; Wilson Yeisley, 1891-1899; W. S. Ulrich, 1900-1907; A. H. Keck, 1908-1909; J. H. Young, 1910-1912; W. E. Arnholt, 1912-1916; H. F. Obenauf, 1917-1921; I. N. Dundore 1922-1927; Ernest S. Proper, 1928-1932; I. N. Dundore (Supply-Pastorate), 1932-1937; Robert W. Hahne, 1937-1941; Karl E. Kniseley, 1941-1943; Henry J. Behrens, 1944-1947; Walter P. Fetterly, 1947-1952; Robert A. Himmelman, 1953-1955; Richard F. Price, 1956 —.

Scottdale St. Paul's 1890

(See Plate 34)

IN 1890 Rev. J. H. Kline accepted an appointment to work as the missionary of the Pittsburgh Synod in the counties of Fayette and Westmoreland. At Scottdale he found at least a score of Lutherans, who were interested in the establishment of a church, and services were held in a rented hall. A provisional organization was effected October 1, 1890, which enrolled forty members. This organizataion was later made permanent by the adoption of a constitution and the election of officers.

After the people were assured that they would be given all the time of the missionary, they bought a lot on Loucks avenue for $800 and made plans for the building of a church. The cornerstone was laid, May 21, 1891, and the building dedicated by Pastor Kline October 20, 1891. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. A. L. Yount. It was built of frame, with corner towers, at a cost of $3,000. Hoffman's Church was made a part of the parish at the beginning.

After the resignation of Pastor Kline, January 1, 1894, Pastor J. F. C. Rupp served the congregation from September 1, 1894, to April 15, 1900. Hoffman's Church was dropped from the parish in 1899. A charter was secured in 1895.

The third pastor was Rev. B. F. Hankey, who served from October 1, 1900, to March 1, 1907. During his pastorate he added 193 new members to the congregation and brought the parish to the position of self-support. He also served Zion Church in the country, an arrangement which remains to the present.

The second church was erected during the pastorate of Rev. D. W. Michael, who served from July 1, 1907 to November 1, 1911. The parsonage was sold for $4,600; the church lot was sold for $4,000; a new site on the corner of Mulberry and Grant streets was then bought for $4,000.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid June 26, 1910, and the completed building dedicated by Pastor Michael February 5, 1911. Drs. J. C. Kunzmann and A. L. Yount assisted the pastor in the dedication. This church was built of brick and stone, church and parsonage being under the same roof, at a cost of $20,000. A considerable debt remained, but this was cleared by the labors of Pastors F. E. Stough and J. O. Glenn. Pastor Glenn was able to report a debt free congregation of 298 members in 1923.

A consecutive list of pastorates follows: J. H. Kline, 1890-1894; J. C. F. Rupp, 1894-1900; B. F. Hankey, 1900-1907; D. W. Michael, 1907-1911; F. E. Stough, 1912-1917; J. O. Glenn, 1917-1925; W. J. Seiberling, 1925-1928; J. B. Lambert, 1929-1931; M. M. Albeck, D. D., 1932-1939; George M. Kunkle, 1937-1947; Sidney E. Kuhn, 1947 —.

Sewickley St. Paul's 1907

ST. PAUL'S was organized by Rev. P. J. C. Glatzert April 18, 1907 with 33 members. A missionary appropriation of $400 was granted by the Pittsburgh Synod, and Pastor Glatzert became the first missionary, serving the mission in connection with Leetsdale and Wall Rose. A charter was obtained and the church was admitted to the synod the same year. During the first several years the congregation battled against many discouragements. But the loyal people persevered. In 1910 they bought a good building site for $4,000.

The second pastorate was that of Robert R. Durst during which time the portable chapel of the Parkersburg Church was secured and erected on their lot. This chapel was thoroughly renovated by the reorganized congregation which numbered 25 members at the time of the reopening. Pastor Durst built up a congregation of 81 members and paid $3,000 of the church debt.

Dr. C. B. King succeeded Pastor Durst February 15, 1920. The remaining debt was quickly paid off and plans were made for the erection of a permanent church. Dr. King gathered a subscription of $18,000 before the contract was let. The cornerstone was laid October 9, 1921, and the church dedicated by Pastor King March 26, 1922. The church was built of brick and stone at a cost of $33,000. The finances were so well managed that a debt of only $12,400 remained in 1923 of which fully one-half had been subscribed. Many new members were added to the congregation, and a fine spirit of hopefulness was established.

Myron E. Cole accepted a call and assumed the pastorate on June 17, 1924. He organized a thriving Luther League which purchased an adjoining lot for $2,200. The Common Service Hymnal was adopted. A two manuel Moller organ was accepted in memory of Rev. Henry Kuhn Shanor, donated by the Shanor children.

Claire O. Dufford started his pastorate June 1, 1932. A junior department of the Sunday Church School was organized, and a Junior Choir formed. Church debts were financed by a single mortgage which in turn was financed by the Columbia Insurance plan. The church nave and chancel were redecorated and a church office was created and furnished by the Aid Society. The communing membership increased 50 per cent during pastor Dufford's tenure which closed November 1, 1943.

T. Wilbur Eshenaur came to St. Paul's April 12, 1944. A weekly bulletin service was adopted. Ecclesiastical Centers of worship handcarved by a member, Mr. Charles Bashaar were placed in the Primary and Junior departments of the Sunday Church School. A debt of $2,400 was paid. The church purchased a parsonage at 702 Centennial Avenue for $6,200. A Brotherhood organization was introduced which assumed a major role in ushering services within the church. A new building campaign was started to meet the needs of space for a larger Sunday School, resulting in the erection of the Church House, the first floor providing a 30 by 60 foot floor space for the Nursery and Primary departments; the second floor providing a parsonage apartment of six rooms for the pastor and his family. This $40,000 structure was financed by the sale of the parsonage, by gifts from members and by donation of labor by the men of the church. At present the church is debt free.

Pastors who have served St. Paul's are: P. J. C. Glatzert, 1907-1913; R. R. Durst, 1914-1919; C. B. King, D. D., 1920-1924; M. E. Cole, 1924-1932; Claire O. Dufford, 1932-1943; T. Wilbur Eshanauer, 1944 —.

Sharon Calvary 1932

THE history of Calvary Lutheran Church of Sharon, Penna., comprises the histories of three churches, for it was through the merging of St. Paul's Lutheran Church with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in 1932 that Calvary Lutheran Church came into being.

St. Paul's, the older of the two original Lutheran Churches, had its early beginnings in 1850, although it had no resident pastor or regular meeting place. Services were conducted by pastors from the neighboring towns of Grove City, Hubbard, Ohio, and Youngstown, Ohio, although not on any regular schedule. Members opened their homes for these services. Later they met in rented rooms and hospitable church basements of other denominations. The earliest recorded baptism was in 1882.

By 1887 the group had grown in faith and sufficient strength so that a church was erected on Walnut Street. A constitution was adopted the following year on January 16. The new parish also had Hubbard and Girard as members. Later a resident pastor was secured who served St. Paul's alone. During these early years the congregation was served by the following pastors: Rev. A. Busse, Rev. Carl Schmidt, Rev. John Maier, and Rev. J. Zentner.

In 1908, following incorporation under Pennsylvania Law, St. Paul's applied for membership in the Joint Synod of Ohio and other States and the congregation was accepted.

In 1919 St. Paul's ceased being an entirely German congregation and some English services were held. From 1921 on all services were conducted in English. Pastors who served from this time until the merger in 1932 were Rev. P. A. Auer, Rev. Carl Hemminghaus, Rev. Arthur Blank, and Rev. Lewis Schaaf.

Rev. Lewis Schaaf was installed as pastor on August 12, 1928, and served until the time of the merger at which time he was unanimously chosen to be the pastor of the new Calvary congregation. To this brief history of St. Paul's, let us now add a sketch of the history of the younger church, Holy Trinity.

Holy Trinity was organized in the fall of 1921. Mr. Willard Allbeck, a student in Hamma Divinity School, had been commissioned by the Board of Home Missions of the Pittsburgh Synod to spend the summer canvassing the city of Sharon for Lutherans. His work showed an encouraging list of names and he held the first service in the Chamber of Commerce building on July 17, continuing weekly until September 4, when it was decided to effect an organization.

Dr. J. Elmer Bittle, Missionary Superintendent of the Synod, was present to assist in the organization and the name Holy Trinity Church of Sharon was adopted as the name of the new congregation.

Following Mr. Allbeck's return to the seminary in September, the Rev. Prof. B. H. Pershing of Thiel College was secured to conduct services throughout the the winter. The following spring, Mr. Samuel Herbster, a student at Mt. Airy Seminary, was secured to take charge for the summer. He worked faithfully trying to build up the roster of members through many pastoral calls and regular church services.

At the June convention of the Pittsburgh Synod at Warren, Pennsylvania, Mr. Harry E. Pebly was instructed to present an application for admission of the congregation into the Pittsburgh Synod. This request received favorable action and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Sharon was placed on the Synodical roll.

Difficulty was encountered in securing a pastor for this new field and when Rev. William H. Brown accepted a call and arrived in Sharon on September 24, 1922, only thirteen members were on hand to greet him. His first work was to organize a Sunday School which met in his own home on Spruce Street with an enrollment of fifteen. Church services were held in a small room at the Buhl Armory, Walnut Street. At this time the struggling congregation of thirteen members applied to the Mission Board of the Synod for financial aid. Three months later, Pastor Brown was authorized to purchase a building lot on South Oakland Avenue. Plans were worked out with the Mission Board for the erection of a church and ground was broken on April 2, 1924. Two months later on June 8, the cornerstone was laid and in October the congregation joyfully moved into their new basement for services. The church was dedicated on November 30, 1924.

The membership grew and in 1925 the total confirmed membership was 41.

A year later Pastor Brown resigned to accept a call to Wellsville, Ohio, and in the interim the Rev. Dr. T. B. Roth of Thiel College served as supply pastor. In 1927 a call was extended to the Rev. Claire O. Dufford who served the congregation for five years. Under his leadership the Sunday School was departmentalized and additional teachers enlisted.

Depression years brought financial troubles to both Holy Trinity and St. Paul's and it seemed the wise plan to cast their lots together to reduce cost of operation and build a stronger Lutheran Church in Sharon. Joint council and congregational meetings were held and articles of merger were formulated, adopted, and later filed in the Mercer County Courthouse on October 17, 1932.

The membership of the merged church was 333 baptised members; 214 confirmed members; and 176 communicant members. Sunday school enrollment was 115 in the new organization.

Tragedy came to the congregation in 1934 when Pastor Schaaf died from injuries received in an automobile accident while enroute to his home in Wheeling, West Virginia on November 29 after conducting a morning Thanksgiving Service in Sharon.

Rev. Heckert of Greenville and professors from Thiel College served as supply pastors until the following summer when Rev. C. F. Christiansen accepted a call and was installed on June 2, 1935. During his pastorate of nine and one-half years, the church advanced in all fields of endeavor. Contributions to Benevolence increased and the Budd Fund Mortgage was paid in December, 1941. A church parsonage was purchased on South Oakland Avenue in May, 1942.

Early on the morning of November 26, 1937 a fire broke out in the furnace room of the church and from the insurance settlement, a new gas furnace was installed. The fire caused damage totaling more than $1,200, and while repairs and renovations were being made, services were held in the gymnasium of the neighboring First Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Christiansen tendered his resignation in November, 1944, and Calvary was without a pastor until March 1, when the Rev. William Fruth accepted the call and assumed his duties. Dr. Miller of New Castle had served as interim pastor.

A red letter day in Calvary's history occurred on March 31, 1948, when, after concentrated effort, Calvary became debt free. A celebration was held on April 21 at which Dr. Donald Houser, Missionary Superintendent, and Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, were special guests, assisting in the burning

of the mortgage. Climaxing a desire of long standing to beautify our worship a Minshall-Estey electric organ was purchased in November and used for the first time at the Thanksgiving Day Service.

Pastor Fruth resigned in October, 1949 and again the church was without a pastor until the following Spring when a call was extended to the Rev. Raymond Agnew, who arrived on July 1 to begin his work. Dr. Robert Kinsey of Thiel College was a supply during this period.

With the coming of Pastor Agnew immediate interest was aroused in a building program for Calvary. With an increase in membership under his leadership, the seating in the nave was inadequate, while the crowded condition in the Sunday School rooms made teaching both difficult and less effective. Lack of parking space had become a major inconvenience, some new comers reporting that when they found no place to park they had returned home.

Under the direction and guidance of the Pittsburgh Synod's Board of American Missions, the Rev. Dr. Donald L. Houser, Superintendent, the congregation voted to relocate and three adjoining lots were purchased on Buhl Boulevard and Highland Road. Plans were approved by the congregation and a bid was awarded for a building of brick construction.

An immediate sale was found for the Oakland Avenue edifice to another denomination with whom the congregation shared quarters jointly for about a year. The parsonage was also sold and this revenue, along with the money in the building fund, together with a successful building fund campaign among members, made possible the start of construction.

Ground was broken on June 17, 1951, and the cornerstone was laid on September 30. Both events attracted a fine attendance and created considerable enthusiasm. As the church neared completion plans were drawn up for a parsonage of matching brick to be constructed on church property.

Built of buff brick, the flat roof and squared-off lines of the new edifice are something of a departure from the traditional Gothic architecture which has come to be associated with church buildings; but nevertheless it is immediately recognized as a church from the cross atop the bell tower, the bell itself, and the beautiful stained glass windows.

The new building is located on a prominent corner of Sharon in a beautiful residential section of the city.

The interior, with a seating capacity of 325, is completely modern in design but at the same time completely liturgical. The overall effect is one of light and color achieved through the use of light oak wood for pews and all chancel furnishings, wrought iron for the communion rail and grille in both pulpit and lectern and colorful tile floors.

The chancel is finished in colors of deep blue, red, green, beige and brown and while these may sound discordant the effect is nevertheless pleasing and conducive to worship.

Another unusual feature is the stained glass windows, which are picture story windows. These are also a departure from the traditional stained glass windows in the simplicity of their pictures and symbolism, and the ease with which they can be interpreted.

Pastor Agnew resigned effective March 1, 1953. A call was extended to the Rev. Elwood G. Hoffman who assumed his duties on April 8, 1953.

The cost of the new church, parsonage and lots was $135,000 and is conservatively valued at $300,000. The present debt totals $40,000.

The pastors of the churches that provided background for the history of Calvary are as follows: St. Paul's pastors: Carl Schmidt, 1882-1885; A. Busse, 1885-1887; John Maier, 1887-1897; J. Zentner, 1906-1916; Carl Hemminghaus, 1916-1921; P. A. Auer, 1921-1924; Arthur Blank, 1924-1928; Lewis Schaaf, 1928-1932. Holy Trinity was served by Wm. A. Brown, 1922-1926; Clair O. Dufford, 1927-1932. After the merger of St. Paul's and Holy Trinity to form Calvary in 1932, the following pastors served the church: Lewis Schaaf, 1932-1934; C. F. Christiansen, 1935-1944; William Fruth, 1945-1949; Raymond Agnew, 1950-1953; Elwood Hoffman, 1953 —.

Sharpsburg First English 1887

THIS congregation was organized by the Rev. Isaiah Irvine, Missionary Superintendent of the General Synod, on June 26, 1887. Although there had been a German Lutheran Church in Sharpsburg since 1863, the English-speaking reseidents requested a church of their own. The First English Lutheran Church was founded with 21 charter members.

The newly-organized congregation met for worship in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, located at the junction of North Main and South Main Streets. The Rev. H. F. Long became the first regular pastor on November 18, 1888. In less than a month, on December 12, it was decided to purchase a lot on the corner of North Main and Prager Streets, at a cost of $2500. A frame chapel was erected thereon for the sum of $1768 and dedicated September 1, 1889.

The Rev. S. D. Daugherty, who later gained church-wide fame for his soul-winning ability, became the second pastor in 1891. The membership rapidly increased and the chapel had to be enlarged twice. During his pastorate of five years he received 334 members. Within one year the congregation became self-supporting, in spite of a serious business depression.

The Rev. I. P. Zimmerman succeeded Pastor Daugherty. Despite the "soup kitchens" and "bread lines" the indebtedness was substantially reduced. During the next pastorate, that of the Rev. S. J. McDowell, the congregation became debt free. Within two years he was called to become the Missionary Superintendent of Synod. While his successor, the Rev. H. E. Berkey, served the congregation, the chapel was deluged with 19 inches of flood water.

In 1903 the Rev. J. H. Main became the pastor and the first parsonage was purchased at a cost of $4300. It was located in Sharpsburg on Linden Avenue. During this pastorate attempts were made to merge with St. John's Lutheran Church, a congregation that had come into existence in 1888 as an off-shoot of the German Lutheran Church. At the time it was an independent Lutheran congregation. Today it is affiliated with the Evangelical and Reformed Church, while the original Church is a member of the Missouri Synod.

Efforts were renewed during the pastorate of the Rev. T. L. Crouse to merge the two congregations, and when this failed, First Church proceeded to erect its present brick edifice on the same site at a cost of $22,000. It was built on an elevation to avoid flood water, with the first floor entirely above ground. The cornerstone was laid October 24, 1909, and the dedication was held December 10, 1910.

But when the St. Patrick's Day flood of 1936 hit the Allegheny Valley with its crest of 46 feet, the entire first floor was submerged. The sanctuary upstairs had 14 inches of water. However, the congregation rallied under the pastor at the time, the Rev. D. C. Burnite, who had suffered likewise in the parsonage. Two years later the present parsonage was purchased in West Etna.

In 1948 Pastor Burnite retired and was succeeded by the Rev. Elmer P. Wentz. For many years the community had been undergoing radical changes. Today it is said to be 87% Roman Catholic. In this community of but 6500 people there are seven Protestant churches and four Roman Catholic. Of the former, five have only a fraction of the membership they once boasted. The only two that have not suffered a loss are the Missouri Synod Church and this congregation. In 1955 the confirmed membership was 351, the communing 282. This is much larger than it has been in many years, in spite of the fact that many have transferred their membership to outlying congregations. Vast physical improvements have been made during this pastorate, including the erection of a new sexton's house. There is no indebtedness.

The following pastors have served this parish: H. F. Long, 1888-1890; S. D. Daugherty, 1891-1896; I. P. Zimmerman, 1896-1898; S. J. McDowell, 1898-1900; H. E. Berkey, 1901-1903; J. H. Main, 1903-1906; T. L. Crouse, 1906-1925; D. C. Burnite, 1925-1948; E. P. Wentz, 1948 —.

Shippenville Mt. Zion 1823

MT. ZION is three years older than the town in which it is located, having been organized by Pastor G. A. Reichert in 1823. Pastor Reichert visited this community in 1822 as a travelling missionary of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and the work preliminary to organization was done at that time. Judge Henry Shippen deeded the old cemetery across the road from the present church to the trustees in 1823, and on the southeast corner of this ground a log schoolhouse was built which was sometimes used as a place of worship. More frequently the services were held in the schoolhouse on the west side of the lot, while communion services were held in the Shippen barn.

The services given by Pastor Reichert to this congregation, 1823-1830, were only occasional, though he preached in Beaver, Fryburg, and Licking regularly for a part of this time. Henry David Keyl made Shippenville the center of a wide range of missionary operations, and continued as pastor until 1839. He yielded the field to Pastor G. F. Ehrenfeld in 1840, because of his inability to provide the necessary English services for the younger people. The parish of Rev. Ehrenfeld consisted of Shippenville, Fryburg, Beaver, and St. Petersburg.

Pastor Ehrenfeld took such strong ground on the temperance question and on prayer meetings that he offended many; but later pastors gave him credit for having exerted a powerful influence upon the spiritual life of the county. It was he who secured for the congregation their first finished house of worship. It was several years in building, being finished as funds were available, some of which were gathered in the eastern part of the state.

The lot was purchased from the Shippen estate July 7, 1842. The cornerstone was laid May 13, 1842, and the building dedicated after much trouble with the contractor October 27, 1844. The building had a basement that was used for school purposes.

Soon after the dedication Rev. Samuel David Witt of the Alleghany Synod accepted a call serving until his death August 29, 1851. Through this pastor Mt. Zion participated in the organization of the Pittsburgh Synod January 15, 1845. The second convention of the new synod was held in Mt. Zion Church June 5-10, 1845.

In 1847 Pastor J. E. W. Braasch of Beaver began to preach in Shippenville for the benefit of those Germans who were not saitsfied with the solution of the language problem. The result was that most of the Germans withdrew and formed Emmanuel Church in 1849. This division together with the collapse of the iron industry in the county was a severe financial blow to the congregation. The church, as a result, was sold by the sheriff to Jacob Black for $500 December 4, 1852. About two years later it was repurchased by the congregation for $1,300, the deed being dated November 13, 1854. During this period of distress Mr. Black permitted them to hold regular services in the church.

Soon after this a church bell was secured and mounted for a time on heavy posts in the churchyard. A cupola was built for this bell in 1856. The church was repaired several times, but in 1902 it was decided to erect a new building. The cornerstone was laid June 7, 1903, and the church dedicated by Pastor J. H. Keller December 13, 1903.

It was a substantial frame church, built of good lumber with a corner tower at $8,000. In 1916 a pipe organ was installed and in 1923 a convenient annex to the church was dedicated by Pastor L. H. Rehmeyer. The parsonage was built during the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Wonders. For many years Mt. Zion and St. Mark constituted a parish, but in 1913 Fryburg and Amity were added.

In 1925, when Charles Lewis Ritter was pastor, the parsonage was repaired and the interior redecorated. His successor, Meade A. Rugh, spent $3,000 for further repairs on the parsonage and the church. Pastor Behrens introduced the pulpit robe for the pastor, installed a fine new altar, brass cross, lectern, baptismal font, robed and vested the choir, and used the Common Service in full. During the pastorate of Jacob B. Troutman the social rooms under the church have been completed at a cost of $30,000. The present communing membership is 105; the property valuation is $54,000 with a debt of $800.

The following pastors have served Mt. Zion: G. A. Reichert, 1823-1830; H. D. Keyl, 1830-1839; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1840-1844; S. D. Witt, 1844-1851; J. G. Ellinger, 1852-1853; S. B. Lawson, 1854-1857; W. B. Bachtell, 1858-1861; J. Q. Waters, 1861-1862; J. B. Fox, 1862-1868; J. F. Dietterich, 1868-1872; Peter Gheen, 1872-1873; C. S. Coates, 1873-1876; A. C. Felker, 1877-1878; J. M. Wonders, 1878-1888; J. M. Rice; 1888-1890; H. F. Long, 1890-1896; J. C. Fasold, 1896-1898; A. J. E. Kast, 1899-1902; J. H. Keller, 1902-1905; T. A. Himes, D. D., 1905-1908; Charles Lambert, 1909-1914; R. R. Richard, 1915-1918; L. H. Rehmeyer, 1919-1923; C. L. Ritter, 1924-1926; Meade A. Rugh, 1926-1932; Henry H. Behrens, 1932-1944; John David Mueller, 1945-1947; Jacob B. Troutman, 1948 —.

Shippenville (Fryburg) St. John 1829

THE first pioneers of this community were three young Germans from Lancaster County: George Kapp, John David Siegwerth, and Christian Hahnlein. They looked over the country in 1811, but were prevented from making their homes by the war of 1812. However, they brought their families out in 1815. Friedrich Ruckenbrod and Jacob Billich also came out from Lancaster County in 1822. These five families furnished the nucleus for St. John Church. A log schoolhouse was built by all the people of the community in 1825. This was used by the Lutherans for a time as a place of worship. The first Lutheran service in this schoolhouse was conducted by Pastor G. A. Reichert in 1822. He organized State Road Evangelical Lutheran Church January 30, 1829.

Pastor Reichert served these people every eight weeks until March 29, 1830, when he was succeeded by Rev. Henry D. Keyl, who served nine years at St. John's. His successor was G. F. Ehrenfeld who introduced English services.

In 1842 a church was built on land donated by J. G. Siegwerth north of Fryburg; and this was displaced by a new frame church dedicated in Fryburg May 18, 1862. In time this church was torn down and Pastor Carl Zinssmeister dedicated the fourth house of worship January 15, 1888. The parsonage was destroyed by fire February 3, 1898, but another was built at a cost of $1,600.

During the pastorate of Meade A. Rugh many improvements were undertaken. A furnace was installed, the church painted and additional parking space acquired. Pastor Henry H. Behrens, who served the church longer than any other pastor, introduced the pulpit robe, Common Service books, and made other liturgical changes.

After 1948 robes for the choir were introduced. The outside of the church was painted and the grounds landscaped. An electric organ was presented to the church by Ira and Henry Amsler and families. The communing membership in 1956 was 75 and the property was valued at $12,000.

This church has been served by the following ministers: G. A. Reichert, 1829-1830; H. D. Keyl, 1830-1839; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1840-1844; S. D. Witt, 1844-1847; P. S. Nellis, 1847; J. G. Donmeyer, 1847-1849; Eli Fair, 1849-1852; J. G. Ellinger, 1852-1853; S. B. Lawson, 1853-1858; Isaac Brenneman, 1859-1860; A. M. Strauss, 1863-1870; W. S. Pore, 1870-1874; D. E. Reed, 1875-1876; J. T. Kendall, 1877-1879; J. K. Bricker, 1879-1883; W. G. Gettle, 1883-1885; George Sill, 1885-1886; C. Zinssmeister, 1887-1890; J. M. Wonders, 1891-1901; D. W. Lecrone, 1902-1908; W. L. Price, 1909-1914; W. E. Watts, 1915-1917; J. E. MacDonald, 1919-1920; L. H. Rehmeyer, 1920-1923; C. L. Ritter, 1924-1926; Meade A. Rugh, 1926-1932; Henry H. Behrens, 1932-1944; John David Mueller, 1945-1947; Jacob B. Troutman, 1947 —.

Shippenville (Kossuth) St. Mark 1848

GEORGE Berlin, born in York County in 1782, came to this community in 1810. Soon after came other German settlers. These Lutherans attended church in Shippenville, but their pastors held occasional services for them at the Schively schoolhouse. According to the records of the Pittsburgh Synod, Pastor S. D. Witt organized a congregation of 34 people September 24, 1848. However, it seems that their constitution was adopted and signed by 40 persons March 11, 1848. The earlier date is probably the correct date of organization.

A small church was built soon after organization, but this was replaced by another in 1881, erected on the same site at a cost of $4,100. It was dedicated by Pastor J. M. Wonders April 30, 1882. After being renovated and refurnished at a cost of $2,600, it was rededicated by Pastor Charles Lamber December 3, 1913.

The same liturgical practices that had been introduced by Pastor Behrens at Shippenville and Fryburg were introduced at St. Mark during this longest of all pastorates. Pastor Behrens introduced the pulpit robe. He installed a regular altar, cross, lectern and inaugurated the Common Service. Recently, during the pastorate of J. B. Troutman, social rooms were built under the church at a cost of $15,000. The communing membership is 116. The property is valued at $32,000 with a $700 debt.

Pastors who have served this church are: S. D. Witt, 1848-1851; J. G. Ellinger, 1853-1854; Nathan Paltzgroff, 1854-1857; W. B. Bachtell, 1858-1861; J. Q. Waters, 1861-1862. J. B. Fox, 1862-1868; J. F. Dietterich, 1868-1872; Peter Gheen, 1872-1873; C. S. Coates, 1873-1876; A. C. Felker, 1877-1878; J. M. Wonders, 1878-1888; J. M. Rice, 1888-1890; H. F. Long, 1890-1896; J. C. Fasold, 1896-1898; A. J. B. Kast, 1899-1902; J. H. Keller, 1902-1905; T. A. Himes, 1905-1908; Charles Lambert, 1909-1914; R. R. Richard, 1915-1918; L. H. Rehmeyer, 1919-1923; C. L. Ritter, 1924-1926; Meade A. Rugh, 1926-1932; H. H. Behrens, 1932-1944; J. D. Mueller, 1945-1947; J. B. Troutman, 1948 —.

Smicksburg (Trade City) Mt. Zion 1841

MT. ZION Church has its origin in the desire of a considerable portion of the Lutheran members of St. Paul's Lutheran-Reformed Union Church, Roundtop, for worship services in the English Language rather than in the German of their forebears. In 1841 this party began to hold English services and were expelled from the "Roundtop" Church. For some years they held services in their homes and other places including the blacksmith shop. In 1868 Pastor C. L. Streamer of Smicksburg organized a congregation and caused a good frame building in modest colonial Georgian style to be erected. The building has been remodeled several times but its sturdy boards and timbers still constitute all but the trim of the building and are remarkably well preserved. The congregation is one of the strongest in the area and has a well developed program. It numbers 176 confirmed and 163 communing members.

The old St. Paul's Church died with the German speaking members. No regular ministry was provided after 1875 and by the turn of the century the congregation had ceased to exist. The building was finally demolished in 1954 by a local association that has been incorporated to care for the old burial ground.

The following have served as pastors of the congregation: Johann Althaus, 1841; J. D. Adam, 1842-1843; H. D. Keyl (supply), 1843; J. G. Donmeyer, 1843-1847; A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1847-1849; G. M. Pile, 1851-1852; F. A. Barnitz, 1852-1854; Christian Diehl, 1854-1858; C. L. Streamer, 1858-1869; P. S. Hooper, 1872; G. A. Lee, 1872-1874; W. E. Crebs, 1874-1879; Ephraim Miller, D. D., 1879-1881; J. T. Gladhill, 1882-1885; C. L. Streamer (second term), 1885-1897; M. S. Kemp, 1897-1902; Shile Miller, 1902-1904; A. R. Longanecker, 1905-1906; J. F. Stabley, 1906-1912; W. B. Claney, 1913; R. N. Stumpf, 1914-1918; R. R. Richard, 1918-1920; J. M. Axe, 1921-1922; W. S. Bonnell, 1923-1928; J. B. Troutman, 1928-1948; H. S. Knoll, 1949-1950; M. O. Bowser, 1951-1957.

Smicksburg Salem 1842

SMICKSBURG was laid out in 1825 by a German minister named Schmick. Lutheranism was established at the same time, for the founder of the town was a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania. The first Lutheran families of the community travelled all the way to St. John's Church near Plumville to attend services except on such occasions when they could persuade Pastor Reichert to hold a service in one of their homes. Sometimes union services would be held in company with the members of other churches, when an itinerant preacher happened to pass that way. On July 13, 1834, Pastor Reichert held a service in Smicksburg at which he baptized six children. These were probably the first Lutheran ministerial acts performed in the town. On September 7, 1834, Pastor Reichert preached again in Smicksburg, but was compelled to hold the service in English in order that the people could understand. In the Spring of 1842 The Rev. Jacob Medtart began to hold regular sevrices in Smicksburg and Salem Church was organized by him May 28, 1842. Of the twenty-one charter members, thirteen came from St. John's.

Jacob Condron, Cornelius Lowe, and Joseph Black constituted the first Church Council. Pastor Medtart conducted services for the new congregation every fourth week at an annual salary of fifty dollars.

It appears that the first resident pastor was the Rev. C. L. Streamer who came to Smicksburg in 1858. At this time the sharing of a pastor with Mt. Zion Church at Trade City was begun. Pastor Streamer having effected the formal organization of that congregation. This man served the parish from 1858-1869 and again from 1885-1897. During his second pastorate he built a substantial brick church to replace the small frame one that had been erected in 1853. The cornerstone was laid June 12, 1889 and the completed building dedicated March 9, 1890. Cost of the structure was $4,650.

This building served the congregation until it was dismantled in 1944 by order of the United States Army Engineers to clear its site which was a part of the Mahoning Creek Flood Control Reservoir. The building of this Flood Control Dam had serious consequences in the congregation. Several of its most prosperous farm families were displaced and removed to communities beyond the bounds of the parish, becoming members of congregations elsewhere. More than half of the families living in town were also displaced, a majority of them moving out of the community. For the first time in many years the communing membership declined. It reached its lowest point in 1949 and 1950 when only 75 members were reported. From that time there has been a steady gain so that at present there are 133 members and good prospects for further gains.

A new church was built to replace the old one. Ground was consecrated and broken April 9, 1944. The cornerstone was laid June 25, 1944 and the completed building dedicated on June 3, 1945 by the Pastor, the Rev. Jacob Troutman. The new building is constructed in Gothic Style of American adaptation. It is a substantial building of ivory bricks, a tribute to the Pastor and the flock and a worthy House of God.

A major portion of the cost was met by the settlement for damages to the old church but the problems and burdens must have seemed almost insurmountable to a declining congregation. The burden was greatly magnified by shortages of materials and other problems resulting from World War II which was then in progress.

Pastor Troutman's able leadership, the determination of the remaining members of the congregation, the devoted aid of the then President of the Synod, Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, combined to do what seemed to be God's Will and so completed a difficult task to His honor and glory.

In the years 1954-1956 major improvements have been completed including the installation of the congregation's first organ. With prospects of future growth and an expanding program Salem is looking forward to years of service to the Kingdom of God and the community.

Pastorates are as follows: Jacob Medtart, 1842; Henry Bishop, 1843-1847; A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1847-1849; G. M. Pile, 1851-1852; F. A. Barnitz, 1852-1854; Christian Diehl, 1854-1858; C. L. Streamer, 1858-1869; P. S. Hooper, 1872; G. A. Lee, 1872-1874; W. E. Crebs, 1874-1879; Ephraim Miller, D. D., 1879-1881; J. T. Gladhill, 1882-1885; C. L. Streamer (Second Term), 1885-1897; M. S. Kemp, 1897-1902; Shile Miller, 1902-1904; A. R. Longanecker, 1905-1906; J. F. Stabley, 1906-1912; W. B. Claney, 1913; R. N. Stumpf, 1913-1918; R. R. Richard, 1918-1920; J. M. Axe, 1921-1922; W. S. Bonnell, 1923-1928; J. B. Troutman, 1928-1948; H. S. Knoll, 1949-1950; M. O. Bowser, 1951 —.

Smicksburg (Sagamore) Trinity 1920

LUTHERANS were employed by the coal company that owned the town of Sagamore from the time of its beginning but no sustained efforts was made to minister to them either in the town itself or at St. John's Church, which was only three quarters of a mile distant, until February 10, 1918 when the Rev. E. F. Dickey of Harmony Grove opened a Sunday School in the theatre. Within a short time there was an enrollment of more than one-hundred. Pastor Dickey wanted to organize a congregation but feared the opposition of some of the men of his parish. He laid his case before the President of the Pittsburgh Synod, who organized Trinity Church with 28 members on May 9, 1920.

Student Oscar Carlson spent the Summer of 1920 in the field, and a class of thirty-three was confirmed September 5, 1920. To the surprise of the officiating minister thirty-seven children were presented for baptism.

In November, 1920, the Rev. J. E. McDonald was installed into a newly formed pastoral charge consisting of Trinity, Sagamore, Harmony Grove, and St. John's, Sagamore. Since only leased land was available it was impossible to negotiate a loan so the churches of the East Conference raised a fund with which a frame chapel was erected. It was dedicated September 21, 1924.

In 1925 labor troubles at the mine almost destroyed the congregation. From that time until 1944 there was a succession of vacancies broken by several re-

markably successful pastorates under the circumstances, for the fortunes of the congregation were closely tied to those of the mines. Since 1944 there has been no permanent ministry. Pastors from the Smicksburg and Grove Chapel parishes have acted as supplies, holding services every second Sunday. In 1947 the mines were closed permanently and a major portion of the membership moved from the town.

Following is a listing of the pastors who have served the congregation: E. F. Dickey, organizer, 1918-1920; Student Oscar Carlson, Summer 1920; J. E. McDonald, 1920-1924; C. E. Held, 1927-1928; John M. Nycum, 1930; Frederick Stueber, 1932-1937; Robert Richter, 1938-1940; Paul Schmiedel, 1941-1944; Jacob Troutman (Supply), 1947-1948; Reinhold Weber, (Supply), 1948; H. S. Knoll, (Supply), 1949-1950; M. O. Bowser, 1951-1955.

Smithton — Hope Memorial — 1904

HOPE Memorial is the historic Hoffman's Church of Baron Run, transferred by a long process to Smithton, about two miles from its first place of worship. The Germans settled in this township before the Revolutionary War, but did not build a church for several years. Lutherans and Reformed attended religious services in private homes until they were able to build a church. Their first public building was a log house, in which services were conducted by Pastors Johannes Stauch and John M. Steck as early as 1794. In 1796 Jacob's Kirk was one of the churches reported by Pastor Steck to the Ministerium. The time of the first organization is not easily determined, but it is an established fact that Henry Hoffman made his will in 1798, directing that his farm of forty-nine acres be sold after the death of his wife and the proceeds applied to the building of a church. This would imply the existence of some kind of organization at the time, and the date of organization is usually given as 1798. Henry Hoffman died in 1802, and a few years later the proceeds of the sale of the farm were used in building the first brick Lutheran church of western Pennsylvania. This church was dedicated by Reformed and Lutheran pastors about the year 1813. It was dedicated as Hope Church, but was usually called Hoffman's. Lutherans and Reformed worshipped within its walls, but the Reformed were soon absorbed and discontinued their services in 1846. Communion services were held here by Pastor John M. Steck in 1816, 1818, and 1819.

The first recorded catechetical class was confirmed by Pastor John M. Steck, July 4, 1819; but this record is found only in the Greensburg Church Book. The communion services of Pastor Jonas Mechling date from October 28, 1821, when 14 communed, to April 23, 1842, when 65 received the sacrament. All services by Pastors Steck and Mechling were held in German about once a month.

During the pastorate of G. S. Hussy, 1842-1843, the rise of Universalism began in this community. An entry in the Church Record, April 6, 1950, refers to two libertines, who "injured the cause of Christ here, the evil of which will take time and grace to remedy." Pastor Hussy, however, deserves the credit for securing the adoption of the first English constitution of Hoffman's Evangelical Lutheran Church, April 1, 1843.

During the pastorate of H. J. H. Lemcke a new lot was bought for $50 on which a new brick church was built at a cost of $1,750. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor Lemcke in the Summer of 1866. When a new parish was formed of West

Newton and Connellsville in 1872, Hoffman's was connected with Seanor's and served by Jacob Singer, 1873-1876, and J. S. Fink, 1877-1881.

After a pastorate of S. K. Herbster of West Newton, 1882-1891, J. H. Kline was commissioned by the synod to do missionary work in the coke region, and gave his chief attention to Scottdale and Hoffman's, 1891-1895. This pastor persauded the congregation to buy and pay for a lot in Smithton, but services were continued in Hoffman's for the reason that the old place of worship was as dear to them as it had been to their fathers. A Sunday School was conducted in rented halls in Smithton with varied success, but no church organization could be effected.

When Pastor W. F. Ulery took charge in 1899, he followed the policy of Pastor Kline, endeavoring to persuade the members of Hoffman's to reorganize in Smithton, but the best he could do was to organize "St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church" with 12 members March 24, 1902. When the leading families of Hoffman's Church refused to attend or encourage it, it shortly ceased to exist. B. F. Hankey of Scottdale was the pastor, 1903-1905, who made a confirmation class of 20 young people the nucleus of "Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church of Smithton," organized with 32 members January 1, 1904. The successors of Pastor Hankey preached at both Hoffman's and Smithton. John Shunk was the first resident pastor of Smithton, but made the mistake of allowing the people to sell their church lot to pay current expenses. For a long period the church was dependent on supply pastors, and during that time the members of Hoffman's gradually transferred their allegiance to Memorial, so that the last service was held in the former church in 1917. There was never any disbandment of the country congregation, and title to the property was not secured by the Pittsburgh Synod until 1925. The burial ground is controlled by the Hoffman's Cemetery Company, incorporated in 1889. On April 10, 1921 the large brick church of the Free Methodists was bought for $3,000. About $12,000 was needed to put this church in good condition; and it was dedicated as Hope Memorial Church by Dr. E. B. Burgess August 3, 1924. Student Adam Simon was in charge of the church at the time, rendering a service that greatly endeared him to the people of the congregation.

The present parsonage was completed in 1931 and was occupied in that year by Pastor Logan L. Kuhns. Dr. Kuhn's pastorate of 11 years was the longest in recent years. During the pastorate of Donald W. Moore a Building Fund was developed. This fund aided greatly in the renovation and rebuilding of the church, and in the extension of the church to connect with the parsonage. This meant a total expenditure of $45,000 which this small congregation paid within two years. During the pastorate of Dr. Wm. F. Pfeifer the congregation experienced a substantial growth in membership. It also became more deeply committed to the benevolent program of the church at large.

The following pastors have served this church: Johannes Stauch and John M. Steck, 1794-1820; Jonas Mechling, 1821-1842; G. S. Hussy, 1842-1843; C. A. T. Selle, 1843-1844; M. J. Steck, 1845-1847; W. S. Emery, 1847-1858; Rev. Simons, 1858-; S. B. Lawson, 1859-1865; J. P. Hentz, 1865-1866; H. J. H. Lemcke, 1866 1872; A. G. Wilson, 1873; Jacob Singer, 1873-1876; J. S. Fink, 1877-1881; S. K. Herbster, 1882-1891; J. H. Kline, 1891-1895; J. C. F. Rupp, 1895-1899; E. L. Reed, 1899; W. F. Ulery, 1899-1903; B. F. Hankey, 1903-1905; F. E. Stough, 1905; J. A. Boord, 1906-1907; John Shunk, 1907-1909; A. H. Bartholomew, 1909-1910; J. A. Boord (second term), 1910-1915; D. D. Miller, 1917-1923; Student Adam Simon (supply), 1923-1927; Jacob O. Kroen, 1928-1929; Logan L. Kuhns, Ph. D., 1930-1942; Donald W. Moore, 1942-1948; Wm. F. Pfeifer, D. D., 1949-1956; J. R. Harkins, 1957 —.

Spring Church Evangelical Lutheran 1841

THE Spring Church property is part of a tract originally surveyed about 1784 and called "Boiling Spring" or "Round Hole." It was called this because of its nearness to a spring whose water boiled over a bed of white sand and at times spurted many feet into the air.

The beginnings are difficult to trace but a provisional organization was formed between the Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Reformed about 1839. Several acres of land were purchased for eight dollars and this was to be used for church and burial purposes. The first Lutheran service was conducted by Pastor Jacob Zimmerman on August 22, 1841. He conducted services in German and English once a month. Pastor Zimmerman resigned July 15, 1849, and his successors for the next four years were the pastors of St. James Church in the Saltsburg parish. On May 17, 1851 the congregation was more fully organized by Pastor J. N. Burket and a new constitution was adopted. The church was given the name "The Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Boiling Springs, Armstrong County, Pa."

The first church was probably dedicated prior to August 22, 1841 since no record of it is found in the diary of Pastor Zimmerman, 1841-1849. It is believed to have been a "union" church built in 1839 or 1840. In the ensuing years the Reformed were gradually absorbed by the Lutherans and Presbyterians. In 1871 the church was sold to the Presbyterians for $175.00 and the Lutherans bought additional land for $100.00 on which they built a frame church for $2000.00. This church was dedicated by Pastor Michael Colver on October 13, 1871.

The congregation suffered severely during the synodical controversy and caused Pastor John Welfley to resign because he supported the General Council. Members left the congregation to unite with other churches.

At no time in its history has this congregation been self-supporting. It began as a union church and later was in a parish comprising Apollo, Spring Church, and Maysville; later South Bend took the place of Apollo; in 1895 Maysville and South Bend withdrew and left Spring Church isolated. New parish alignments were formed later.

Rev. T. J. Frederick came to the parish on December 1, 1890 and served until November 19, 1911. On June 12, 1891 the congregation adopted a new constitution and changed the name of the church to "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Spring Church Post Office, Armstrong County, Pa." After the resignation of Pastor Frederick the congregation was served by supply pastors until November of 1916 when Pastor M. L. Clare of Apollo conducted services on Sunday afternoons. This was continued until September 1, 1945. From September of 1940 until sometime in 1942, the Rev. Robert E. Wolff, assistant to Pastor Clare, conducted morning services. Pastor Wolff died in 1942.

Upon Pastor Clare's retirement in 1945, the new pastor at Apollo, the Rev. William C. Hankey, served Spring Church from December 1, 1945 to June 30, 1946. When the Spring Church Parish was formed in 1946 combining Faith, Oklahoma, and Spring Church the new pastor, the Rev. C. Thornton Hays, took charge. A parsonage was purchased by the two congregations, and the next pastor, the Rev. Harlon M. Miller, was the first to occupy it. In 1955 the church was incorporated and the name changed to the "Spring Church Evangelical Lutheran Church." A tract of nine acres, including the original site of "Boiling Springs", was purchased

in 1955 for a future building site for the sum of $4500.00. In 1956 the congregation adopted the model constitution of the United Lutheran Church in America.

The following pastors have served this church: Jacob Zimmerman, 1841-1849; John Rugan, 1849-1850; J. N. Burket, 1851-1853; David Earhart, 1954-1860; J. A. Delo, 1860-1864; John Welfley, 1864-1868; Michael Colver, 1868-1872; Supplies, 1872-1876; G. F. Schaeffer, 1876-1882; C. B. King, 1883-1890; T. J. Frederick, 1890-1911; Supplies, 1911-1916; M. L. Clare, D. D., (supply), 1916-1945; Robert E. Wolff (assistant), 1940-1942; Wm. C. Hankey, 1945-1946; C. Thornton Hays, 1946-1951; Harlon M. Miller, 1951-1958; Guy E. Wilson, 1958 —.

Spring Church (Oklahoma) Faith 1946

THROUGH the efforts and influence of Dr. William F. Pfeifer, Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, President of the Pittsburgh Synod, and Dr. Donald L. Houser, Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, the Board of American Missions conducted a survey on October 19, 1945 in and around the Borough of Oklahoma. The results showed 35% of the population to be Lutherans.

Steps were taken to organize a new congregation. Rev. C. Thornton Hays was called to develop the field. The first preaching service was held on August 11, 1946, and the first Church School service on September 1, 1946. Both of these services were held in the Oklahoma Grade School building. The organization of the congregation took place December 1, 1946 in the First Lutheran Church, Vandergrift. The church was organized with 107 confirmed members. When the charter membership was closed on Palm Sunday of 1947 there were 147 confirmed members.

In April of 1947 the Board of American Missions purchased a building lot for the congregation in the Borough of Oklahoma. A Building Committee was then appointed. The plans of architect Arthur Martsoff for the new church were recommended by the Building Committee and approved by the congregation. Arrangements for financing were made through Mr. Elwood Bowman of the Board of American Missions.

The Ground Breaking Service was held March 21, 1948, the Cornerstone Laying on September 12, 1948, and the Dedication Service on June 6, 1949.

There are four major organizations in the church: the Women's Missionary Society, the Working Circle, Fellowship Bible Class, and the Friendship Bible Class.

Rev. C. Thornton Hays resigned the pastorate on June 30, 1951 to accept a call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Evans City, Pa.

Rev. Harlon M. Miller was called from First Lutheran Church, Chicora, Pa., and began his pastorate on November 1, 1951. A Baldwin electronic organ was purchased and used for the first time at the Palm Sunday service in 1955. On June 19, 1955 Pastor Miller celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the Christian ministry. The confirmed membership on April 1, 1956 numbered 232.

The two pastors who have served the parish are: C. Thornton Hays, 1946-1951; and Harlon M. Miller, 1951-1958; Guy E. Wilson, 1958 —.

Springdale St. Mark's 1867

ON May 25, 1867, under the leadership of Rev. J. K. Melhorn, St. Mark's, Springdale, was organized. Thus St. Mark's represents the oldest Lutheran group between Pittsburgh and Freeport. On that May Sunday eighteen persons gave their names as charter members of the new organization at a meeting held in a little schoolhouse along the road running toward Pittsburgh. While all these eighteen souls have passed on, the words and deeds of that day still carry on, and they have been repeated many times in the history of St. Mark's. Scarcely more than two months after organization, the cornerstone of a frame church was laid on a plot of ground given by Mr. George Shoop, Sr., and on March 8, 1868, the completed church was dedicated by Dr. Passavant. After the dedication service, nineteen persons partook of the Lord's Supper. (It is of interest to note that the first communion table used in St. Mark's is still in continuous use in the Sunday School.)

The second chapter is much longer, and it seems to indicate times of discouragement and difficulty. However, there were those among the small group who carried on in spite of these many adversities. During the summer of 1868, Rev. Henry Eyster Jacobs, who later became one of the church's greatest theologians, came to supply the young congregation. On June 28, 1868, ten persons were taken into membership. One of these, Miss Lavina Shoop, later Mrs. Lavina Metsker, now honored and revered, was a staunch member and friend of St. Mark's until her death in Zelienople on August 16, 1949. In the fall of 1868, a new parish was formed. This parish consisted of Kittanning, Natrona, and Springdale, and it was served by Rev. J. A. Kribbs from 1869 to 1872. When the Kittanning group withdrew, the two remaining groups were hard pressed to support a pastor, and as a result they were served only by supply pastors between the years 1872 and 1883.

During the ministry of Rev. John Welfley, 1883-1888, a Ladies' Aid was formed with sixteen names appearing on the charter roll. This organization began a period of uninterrupted, invaluable service to St. Mark's, and to the present day it is the most dependable, untiring organization within the congregation. During the pastorate of Rev. R. E. McDaniel, in 1889, a parish was formed by Grace, Tarentum, and St. Mark's, Springdale. This parish continued until 1915; after that time St. Mark's has had her own pastor. During the ministry of Rev. McDaniel, a Mission League was formed, and it is believed to be the forerunner of the Luther League organized by Rev. E. O. Graham, 1901-1908.

The third chapter begins in 1911, when Rev. J. L. Fischer served St. Mark's as well as St. John's, Forbes Street, Pittsburgh. The congregation numbering thirty-two began the task of replacing the frame church with a brick building. Partly by a donation from Mrs. Metsker, and partly by purchase, the congregation acquired two fine large lots at the corner of Colfax Street and Pittsburgh Street. Here, on July 28, 1912, ground was broken for the construction of the new building. The cornerstone was laid on November 24, 1912, and on May 8, 1913 the new church was dedicated by Rev. Fischer. At this time the font was presented by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Sunedecker, the pulpit by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Cornman, the Bible by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Spahr, lectern by St. Peter's, Evans City, and the pews were presented by Grace, Rochester. Memorial stained glass windows were given by several friends of the congregation, and $2000.00 was given by Mrs. Metsker toward the purchase of a future parsonage. During the pastorate of Rev. C. A. Dennig, the Luther League presented the church with a complete set of paraments which are still in continuous use.

In 1917, during the service of Rev. G. G. Ruff, the Women's Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Ruff, who served as its first president. While this group has never been large in numbers it has served well, and has kept St. Mark's in constant touch with the mission work of the church at large. On Ocotber 1, 1923 a brick parsonage was completed. In 1926 St. Mark's became a completely self-supporting congregation. From 1922 to 1935, the membership of St. Mark's grew from 70 to 600 persons. This growth was in line with a great influx of people into the communities served by St. Mark's. In December, 1937, Rev. R. E. Dozer came to St. Mark's. While he was here, several noteworthy material gains were accomplished. Chief among these were installation of a new organ, extensive interior decorations, and considerable debt reduction.

With the resignation of Rev. Dozer, a call to fill the vacancy was accepted by Rev. William H. Mitchell. A short time after his pastorate began, the church became debt-free. Considerable money has been expended to place and keep the physical property of the church in decent repair. In April, 1946, new cathedral lanterns were dedicated in honor of those members of our church who had served in the armed forces during World War II. In May, 1946 an engraved bronze plaque was placed in the church in memory of eight members who made the supreme sacrifice for our nation.

As the Sunday School grew, the need for additional space became very pressing, and on November 23, 1952 a new educational unit was dedicated by Rev. Mitchell. Several other much-needed facilities were included in the expansion, which cost $35,000.00. In 1956 the church was debt-free.

Pastors who have served St. Mark's: J. K. Melhorn, 1867-1868; Henry Eyster Jacobs, 1868-1869; J. A. Kribbs, 1869-1872; J. Sarver (supply), 1873-1874; J. B. Fox (supply), 1874-1875; J. Q. Waters (supply), 1875-1876; J. S. Fink (supply), 1876-1878; L. H. Geschwind (supply), 1878-1879; G. H. Gerberding (supply), 1879-1881; E. Belfour (supply), 1881-1882; J. K. Melhorn (supply), 1882-1883; J. Welfley, 1883-1888; R. E. McDaniel, 1889-1900; E. O. Graham, 1901-1908; John Roth, 1908-1911; J. L. Fisher, 1911-1913; C. A. Dennig, 1913-1915; A. M. Hahn, 1915-1916; L. D. Miller (supply), 1916; G. G. Ruff, 1916-1920; W. S. Bonnell, 1921-1922; C. W. Baker, Jr., 1922-1935; John E. Slater, 1935-1937; Reginald E. Dozer, 1937-1942; Wm. H. Mitchell, 1942 —.

St. Petersburg Salem 1830

AMONG the Salem pioneers of 1820 were a number of Germans who attended services in St. Paul's. Pastor Henry David Keyl began to hold services for them in the home of John Adam Scheffer in 1830. Five years later the meetings took place in the home of William Herrington, and the appointment was called Herrington's in the synodical record.

Salem's first church was built of frame at a cost of $1,000. This served as a place of worship for 37 years, without benefit of paint or repairs. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor Keyl in 1838. The Reformed were given the privilege of holding services in the church until 1867, when they dedicated a church of their own. Other denominations were given a similar privilege.

In 1845 a house and five acres of land were bought from John Herbst, and Pastor J. G. Donmeyer was the first to use it as the parsonage. It was more than a mile east of the church, and was used as a parsonage until 1862. It was sold in

1865, when a second parsonage was built nearer the church. From 1847 to 1920 Salem was the center of a large parish, but in the last named year it united with St. Petersburg and Emlenton to form a parish with the pastor living in St. Petersburg. With the parsonage removed, the Salem Church rapidly declined. Only within the last decade has the congregation shown signs of renewed strength. The church now has a well-trained group of leaders, and an adequate building to provide for growth and expansion.

Salem's second church was built in 1875 at a cost of $4,800. Repairs were made to the church in 1901, 1903, and 1920. But Salem's greatest effort was put forth in the building of a beautiful and very functional church basement, completed in 1956 at an estimated cost of $30,000. While built specially for religious education purposes, this addition also serves the social needs of the congregation.

Seven of her sons have entered the office of the ministry: S. P. Herrington, John Amos Scheffer, Nathanael Scheffer, Samuel W. Kuhns, C. E. Rugh, Meade A. Rugh, and Arthur Rugh. The wives of pastors Joseph Welker, J. K. Argo, James A. Hartman, and Peter Ewald were also members of Salem.

The pastorates in their order were: H. D. Keyl, 1830-1839; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1840-1844; J. G. Donmeyer, 1845-1847; Joseph Welker, 1848-1853; J. G. Ellinger, 1853-1854; Nathan Paltzgroff, 1854-1857; W. B. Bachtell, 1858-1861; J. Q. Waters, 1861-1862; J. B. Fox, 1862-1868; J. F. Dietterich, 1868-1872; Peter Gheen, 1872-1873; C. S. Coates, 1873-1876; A. C. Felker, 1877-1879; E. H. Dornblaser, 1879-1881; J. A. Hartman, 1882-1884; J. F. Hershiser, 1884-1890; Shile Miller, 1892-1895; J. E. F. Hassinger, 1895-1899; S. E. Smith, 1899-1905; F. J. Howard, 1906-1908; A. M. Himes, 1909-1914; J. A. Boord, 1915-1918; W. R. Goff, 1919-1923; J. R. Booth, 1923-1932; E. Stewart Proper, 1932-1938; Frank H. Miller, 1938-1945; Carl E. Maier, 1945-1948; Frank B. Herzel, 1949-1956; Warren Upton, 1956-1958.

St. Petersburg (Emlenton) St. John's 1869

ST. JOHN'S Church of Emlenton, Pa., was organized in the Hill Street schoolhouse by Rev. J. B. Fox on June 30, 1869. An agreement was made with the Reformed congregation to build a union church, which provided that this relationship should continue for ten years. A lot on the corner of Main and Fourth streets was bought, and a two-story brick church erected for $3,600. The cornerstone was laid July 3, 1869.

In June of 1885 the Lutherans withdrew from the union and built a church on the hill. This church was built of frame at a cost of $2,000, and was dedicated by Pastor Fox January 3, 1886.

Recent improvements include the purchase of an electric organ in 1948; the complete renovation of the chancel in 1950; and the building of social rooms in the basement of the church in 1953.

St. John's Church has never been a large congregation; the confirmed membership has probably never exceeded 70. But the group has been faithful, and the spirit of the church has been good. One reason the church has not grown is that it has continually educated its sons and daughters, sending its true riches to enrich Lutheran congregations in various cities. The Emlenton community offers little inducement for educated youth, and there is little to attract new Lutheran families.

The pastors of St. John's have made various parish alignments. From 1888 to 1897 the church was united with the Parker Mission. Then Pastor Ash served in

connection with the Beaver Parish. In 1901 a parish was formed of the Parker, Emlenton, and St. Petersburg congregations. Later Parker disbanded, and in 1920 Salem Church was added to the parish. This alignment has continued to the present.

The pastors of St. John's were: J. B. Fox, 1869-1888; W. F. Bacher, 1889-1890; D. D. Miller, 1890-1892; J. K. Melhorn and other supplies, 1892-1893; Jacob Ash, 1894-1897; Ludwig Beisecker, 1897-1900; Bernard Repass, 1901-1904; W. C. Beck, 1905-1911; H. D. Whitteker, 1912-1913; Bernard Fetterly, 1914-1916; William Weicksel, 1916-1919; W. R. Goff, 1920-1923; J. R. Booth, 1923-1932; E. Stewart Proper, 1932-1938; Frank H. Miller, 1938-1945; Carl E. Maier, 1945-1948; Frank B. Herzel, 1949-1956; Warren Upton, 1956-1958.

St. Petersburg — St. Peter's — 1834

THE St. Peter's Lutheran Church was organized by Pastor Henry David Keyl in the early part of 1834. Samuel Shirey and Henry Whitling were the first Trustees of the church. The first services were held in the barn of John Snyder, about 2 miles north of town.

The present site of the church and cemetery was granted jointly to the Reformed and Lutherans congregations by Judge Peters, the deed for this grant being dated March 25, 1834.

A frame church was erected by the two congregations at a cost of $1,003. It was dedicated in 1837. The two congregations worshiped jointly in the church until 1854, when the Reformed people sold their interest to the Lutherans. The Lutherans continued to use this original building for worship until 1873. On July 3 of that year Rev. J. B. Fox laid the cornerstone for a new building, which was completed and dedicated in December, 1873. This church cost $6,500, and was used until the present structure was erected in 1922.

The beautiful new stone church was made possible by the offer of the W. G. Freeman family to match the gifts of the congregation up to $15,000. The promise was more than redeemed, inasmuch as the completed structure cost about $36,000. This new building was dedicated by Pastor W. R. Goff on June 4, 1922. It continues to serve the spiritual, educational, and social needs of the congregation.

St. Peter's Church has had various alignments to form pastoral charges. At first it appears that the pastor served only St. Peter's. When Rev. G. F. Ehrenfeld came in December of 1840 he became pastor of Shippenville, Salem, Fryburg, Beaver, and St. Peter's. Beginning with pastor J. B. Fox in 1865, all the pastors have been members of the Pittsburgh Synod. At the outbreak of the synodical controversy in 1868, Pastor Fox had charge of a parish consisting of Shippenville, St. Mark's, Emmanuel, Salem, and St. Peter's; but St. Peter's alone stood with the pastor when he elected to cast his lot with the General Council. St. Peter's and Emlenton united to form a parish in 1869, and to this Beaver was added in 1874. For a time Emlenton was united to Parker, later returning with Parker to the St. Petersburg Parish. After the Parker church was disbanded Emlenton and St. Petersburg constituted a parish until 1920, when Salem was added. This alignment continues to the present.

St. Petersburg was once the scene of feverish oil activity. But since 1930 the population has been dwindling. Years ago a Presbyterian Church disbanded, and the Catholic Church was sold in 1946. The remaining churches in the community are not strong or vigorous. St. Peter's numbers 100 confirmed members, but faces the

depressing situation of a declining community. The church has a large endowment income.

The minister who served St. Peter's were: H. D. Keyl, 1834-1839; G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1840-1844; C. G. Stuebgen, 1844-1847; J. E. W. Braasch, 1847-1853; A. B. Bierdemann, 1853-1856; Anton Lachenmeier, 1857-1860; Peter Engers, 1860-1865; J. B. Fox, 1865-1878; J. H. Kline, 1879-1880; Supplies, 1880-1883; G. E. Titzel, 1883-1888; Jacob Ash, 1889-1897; Ludwig Beisecker, 1897-1900; Bernard Repass, 1901-1904; W. C. Beck, 1905-1911; H. D. Witteker, 1912-1913; Bernard Fetterly, 1914-1916; W. Weicksel, 1916-1919; W. R. Goff, 1919-1923; J. R. Booth, 1923-1932; E. Stewart Proper, 1932-1938; Frank H. Miller, 1938-1945; Carl E. Maier, 1945-1948; Frank B. Herzel, 1949-1956; Warren Upton, 1956-1958.

Swissvale — St. John's — 1902

(See Plate 35)

THE first religious organization in Swissvale was a Union Sunday School which began in 1858 and which met in a small brick schoolhouse on the Milligan Farm, where Westmoreland and Braddock Avenues now intersect. However, those interested were chiefly Presbyterians.

In 1867 an effort was made to organize a Lutheran Church under the name of "The Swissvale Evangelical Lutheran Church and Academy." An acre of land on the present Monongahela Avenue, between Church Street and McClure Avenue, was given by Mr. James Swisshelm. This grant was on the condition that once in every five years a day school be maintained. Through the generosity of the Newmyer and Haven families a modest frame church was erected in which were conducted Church Services and a Sunday School. The Rev. Lepley was the Lutheran pastor in charge of this work. The Lutheran constituency was not strong enough to give the necessary support and the property was transferred to the Swissvale Presbyterian Church, which had been organized the previous year.

After a lapse of thirty years a successful attempt toward establishing a Lutheran Church in Swissvale took place. In 1901 the Ohio Synod held services. The attention of the Pittsburgh Synod was directed to the field since most of the Lutherans were members of General Synod congregations. The Ohio Synod surrendered the field and the Rev. S. J. McDowell, Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, began definite steps toward organizing a congregation. Under his direction the Rev. T. Bruce Birch, a professor at Irving College, canvassed the community for eight weeks.

On August 24, 1902, "Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church" was organized with 38 Charter Members in Dixon's Hall, at the corner of Edgewood and Braddock Avenues, where services were held. From April 13 to September 13, 1903, services were held in the Denniston School Building. The first pastor, The Rev. A. R. Longanecker, began his ministry here on December 1, 1902. With the financial assistance of the Synod a lot at the corner of Monongahela and Schley Avenues was bought and a brick church was erected at a cost of $3,300 and dedicated September 13, 1903. Pastor Longanecker resigned April 30, 1905.

The congregation called the Rev. A. F. Richardson who began May 7, 1905. The rapidly growing congregation soon found the small building inadequate and the present site of St. John's Church, at the corner of McClure Avenue and Monroe Street, was purchased and plans were selected for the new building.

The Rev. H. C. Erdman was called to be pastor and took charge June 17, 1906. The cornerstone of the present church building was laid April 4, 1907 and the church was dedicated on Apirl 5, 1908. It is of brick and stone. The cost was $19,000.

Rev. P. H. R. Mullen took charge September 8, 1915. The property facing Schoyer Avenue and adjoining the church was purchased. The parsonage costing $7,000 was built, and was occupied November 20, 1917. During all these years St. John's Church was a Mission congregation, receiving salary and other aid from the Home Mission Board, but the day anxiously hoped for came May 1, 1921 when the congregation became self-sustaining.

During the summer of 1922 the entire interior of the church was redecorated. On November 26, 1922 a new pulpit and lectern were dedicated. In the month of August, 1923, the men of the church began to excavate and remodel the basement. This work was voluntary and required about one year. During this period, under the leadership of Mr. A. D. Brougher, superintendent, the Sunday School was reorganized and graded. The average attendance for the year 1929 was 317. In 1925 the clerical robe was introduced. On Easter Day, March 27, 1932, a Moller pipe organ was dedicated. This was a gift of Mr. Washington M. Wentzel in memory of his wife Mrs. Mary Menzemer Wentzel.

The Rev. Frederick C. Sternat began his years of service as pastor on December 1, 1935. On July 13, 1936 the complete remodeling and renovation of the church was begun. The dome above the nave which had been a source of trouble for many years was removed and a new ridge type roof was built in it place. Heavy beams of steel were placed across the top of the arches to support the new heavy slate roof. The chancel floor was rebuilt. Paneling was placed behind the altar from the floor to the ceiling. Two clergy chairs were presented. The choir loft was enlarged. Hardwood floors were laid. The cost of these improvements along with previous indebtedness amounted to $11,500. The mortgage covering this obligation was burned November 7, 1941.

The congregation observed the fortieth anniversary of its organization with appropriate services November 8 to 15, 1942. Since 1942 general growth has been apparent. The physical improvements have been many. Tile flooring was installed in the Sunday School Rooms and the Balcony of the church in 1950. Schulmerich "Carillonic Bells" were dedicated November 10, 1952. New pews for the entire church were purchased at a cost of $14,000, in 1954. Redecorating in the nave was made in September of 1955 at a cost of $5,200.

Substantial improvements at the parsonage were made in December of 1955. At the close of 1955 there was no indebtedness. Pastor Sternat resigned December 31, 1955, for retirement. In addition to giving him recognition at several congregational occasions at the close of 1955, the congregation honored Pastor Sternat by electing him "Pastor Emeritus" on April 8, 1956. His pastorate at St. John's Church, as well as that of Dr. Mullen's, was twenty years.

The Rev. Kenneth W. Munster was called and began his duties January 1, 1956. There are 385 communing members and 336 are enrolled in the Sunday School.

The pastors have served in the following order: T. B. Birch (supply), 1902; A. R. Longanecker, 1902-1905; A. F. Richardson, 1905-1906; H. C. Erdman, 1906-1915; P. H. R. Mullen, D. D., 1915-1935; F. C. Sternat, 1935-1955; and K. W. Munster, 1956 —.

Tarentum St. Paul's 1886

ST. PAUL'S was organized by Rev. George Amschler in 1886. An earlier German Lutheran church had been organized in Tarentum as early as 1854, but this venture was not successful. Unger and Dunlap halls were used for the first services, and the congregation was established without mission aid. A new church was built in partnership with Grace. This church was dedicated in 1889. In 1913, however, Grace decided to build its own church. Pastor Amschler served St. Paul's for forty years, resigning in 1926. During much of this period he also served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Natrona. He walked from one charge to the other every week and often during the week to make his pastoral calls.

Many repairs have been made to the church building. When the steeple was struck by lightning, it was lowered. A gas furnace has recently been installed and the entrance door has been replaced. In 1957 white aluminum siding was applied to the frame structure.

Pastors who have served this church are: George Amschler, 1886-1926; H. O. Zbinden, 1926-1929; E. T. Butz, 1929-1932; Fritz Grossmann, 1932-1944; Werner Eberbach, 1944-1950; Andreas Nagelbach, 1951-1953; John Schneidmiller (supply), 1955-1956; C. W. Baker, D. D., 1957 —.

Tarentum United 1932

PREVIOUS histories of the Pittsburgh Synod record the existence of three Lutheran churches in Tarentum, Pennsylvania: Grace, Trinity, and St. Paul's. These churches functioned as separate organizations until May 27, 1932.

On January 20, 1932 a meeting of representatives from these three Lutheran Churches of the Pittsburgh Synod was held, the Rev. H. H. Bagger, President of Synod, presiding. At this meeting a Resolution of Merger was unanimously adopted.

On February 7, 1932 at special congregational meetings this Resolution of Merger was adopted by the Grace and Trinity Churches but rejected by St. Paul's. The two congregations adopting this Resolution immediately elected representatives to a joint Merger Committee which committee was instructed to draw up Proposals of Merger.

On March 6, 1932 at special congregational meetings the Proposals of Merger which had been prepared by the committee were adopted by the two churches. The committee continued its work and prepared a proposed constitution and by-laws. These were adopted by both churches on April 24, 1932.

On May 29, 1932, the Decree of Incorporation having been issued by the Court on May 27, 1932, the first meeting of the merged congregation was held in the Trinity Church building, the President of Synod presiding. It had been decided in the Proposals of Merger that the Trinity Church building, Allegheny Street, should be retained as the home of the new congregation and that the Grace Church building, E. Ninth Avenue, should be disposed of. The Grace Church building was in a short time sold to the Odd Fellows Lodge.

At the first meeting of the United Lutheran Church of Tarentum the proceedings of the Merger Committee were ratified and approved, the new constitution and by-laws adopted, and the church council for the new congregation was elected.

The congregation was served by various supply pastors until February 5, 1933 when Synod sent Samuel H. Gross of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, as stated supply to the congregation, and on May 7, 1933 he was unanimously called as first pastor of the congregation. Pastor Gross began his pastorate on June 1, 1933 having been ordained on May 24, 1933 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Latrobe, Pa.

During this pastorate the congregation was chiefly concerned with the integration of merged members, the maintaining of solvency under a debt of $14,000.00, fulfilling its obligation to the Pittsburgh Synod, and keeping the property of the congregation in adequate repair under adverse economic conditions.

Pastor Gross did his work well. The confirmed membership was adjusted downward; the communing membership was increased substantially; and the financial standing of the congregation was more firmly established although attempts at lowering the church debt met with little success.

Having received a call to Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin, Pa., Pastor Gross terminated his pastorate at the United Lutheran Church on April 27, 1939.

The Rev. J. E. Shaughnesy was called as pastor October 8, 1939. Relinquishing his pastorate of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Millvale, Pa., he was installed as pastor of the United Lutheran Church on November 26, 1939.

In the interval between April and November the congregation was served by supply pastors. During this time a letter was received from the Secretary of Banking of Pennsylvania demanding settlement of the congregational debt. A financial campaign, the liquidation of some assets, and the borrowing of funds from local sources enabled the congregation to meet the demand of the State of Pennsylvania. Further effort and stewardship on the part of the membership cleared all indebtedness and the mortgage was burned October 29, 1941.

World War II called nearly a hundred young men and women from the congregation and resulted in the death of four young men. However, it also brought brightened economic conditions to the community and congregation. The years which followed brought nothing but success, increased membership, enlarged giving, fulfillment of yearly obligations to the Pittsburgh Synod, establishment of financial security, and an increase of property holdings.

During the years the property of the congregation was repaired and renovated a number of times. In 1945 a chancel cross and amplifying system were memorial gifts by the Schwartz family in honor of Martin Schwartz. In 1948 the church organ was repaired and enlarged and the church nave completely renovated. A new gas-fired boiler was installed in the church. In 1954 three properties adjoining the church and parsonage were purchased to provide space for additions to the church.

On May 29, 1955 ground was broken for an educational unit. A building 34 x 49 feet with three floors providing class room space and recreational facilities was dedicated February 26, 1956.

At the time of this writing the confirmed membership of the congregation numbers 701 and the communing membership 475.

United has been served by Supplies, 1932-1933; Samuel H. Gross, 1933-1939; J. E. Shaughnesy, 1939 —.

Trafford Paintertown 1946

THIS mission church was organized in the Paintertown School on April 7, 1946 with 121 charter members. A little over a month later, on May 14, 1946, the Ladies Aid and Missionary Society was organized. The Rev. H. Edmund Pfeifer was the church's organizing pastor. He remained at Paintertown until November 28, 1949. During this first pastorate ground had been broken for the church on April 25, 1948; the cornerstone laid October 17; and the church dedicated May 22, 1949 with Rev. Wahl Pfeifer, brother of the pastor, as speaker.

A new organ was installed on Easter of 1954 and completely paid for by the following year. The Greensburg Conference held its meeting in this church October 27, 1955.

Three pastors have served this church since its organization in 1946: H. Edmund Pfeifer, 1946-1949; William C. Kaiser, 1949-1952; Arthur G. Haberlin, 1952 —.

Trafford St. Mark's 1911

THE Missouri synod was the first Lutheran body to attempt to plant a church in this Westinghouse community. After their failure the General Council workers made a canvass and held services in Ploss Hall. This second attempt was made in 1910. In the following year, April 23, 1911, St. Mark's was organized with eleven members.

A Sunday School of 25 members was organized earlier in the same year. For twelve years the congregation had no church home, worshipping first in the United Brethren Church, then in the Odd Fellows Hall, and later in the Reformed Church. Church buildings could be used, since all services were then held in the afternoons.

When the new St. Paul's of Pitcairn was erected, St. Mark's was permitted to use the portable chapel of the Church Extension Society of Pittsburgh. A good location was secured and here the chapel was built on a good foundation, at a cost of $2,500. The chapel was rededicated by Pastor W. H. Baker October 7, 1923.

Pastors who have served St. Mark's are: H. F. Obenauf, 1911-1916; W. H. Baker, 1918-1924; R. F. Steininger, 1924-1928; H. H. Flick, 1929-1938; W. F. Rex, 1938-1940; Kenneth W. Munster, 1941-1945; H. Edmund Pfeifer, 1945-1949; William C. Kaiser, 1949-1952; Arthur G. Haberlin, 1952-1957.

Turtle Creek Alpha 1894

THE Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church of upper Turtle Creek was organized by Rev. Michael Colver August 4, 1872. The majority of the members belonged to Hankey and Brush Creek churches of Westmoreland County. A constitution was adopted September 14, 1872, when Joseph Ament and Joseph Stough were elected as the first church officers. Pastor Colver served them but a few months. During 1874 and 1875 they were served by Pastor J. H. Houseman in connection with North Zion. The church was then vacant for several months, during which Rev. Jonathan Sarver of Leechburg visited the field and preached several times for the people.

Such a degree of interest developed that he was able to organize St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church with 43 members August 6, 1876. This was the situation that confronted the next General Synod pastor, Rev. O. F. Harshman, when he entered the field in October. He persuaded the greater part of the Lutherans of the community to return to the fellowship of the Mt. Carmel Church, anad built up a large Sunday School.

The people then began to plan for the building of a church. There was a great difference of opinion on the question of a site, but the committee finally purchased a lot in upper Turtle Creek. The great factories of East Pittsburgh and Wilmerding had not then been built, and the site was regarded as the most central that could be secured. The cornerstone of a new church was laid April 19, 1878, and the completed building dedicated by Pastor Harshman April 13, 1879. After his resignation September 21, 1879, the isolation of the church made it difficult to serve. Sometimes the Westmoreland pastors preached for them; sometimes the pastors of North Zion. It was finally added to the Braddock parish in 1887, and served in that relation until 1892.

By that time the erection of the Westinghouse plants in the Turtle Creek Valley had drawn the greater part of the members of Mt. Carmel into the lower town. The organization of a new church became necessary in order to meet the changing conditions. A number of Turtle Creek Lutherans bought a lot on Airbrake Avenue in June, 1891, which they were ready to turn over to a new congregation.

Rev. J. E. Maurer, missionary superintendent of the Synod, effected a temporary organization of fourteen members November 12, 1893, and the constitution of Alpha Evangelical Lutheran Church was formally adopted January 21, 1894, when the membership was increased to thirty. Twenty-two of these members came from Mt. Carmel Church, so that the two organizations are sometimes considered as one. The services were held in Black's Hall. The first pastor was Rev. Jonathan Elmer Bittle, whose natural missionary gifts led him into many homes and gave him a strong hold upon the young people. The Synod made an appropriation of $200, but the mission was so vigorous that it became self-sustaining within two years.

A brick church was erected on Airbrake Avenue at a cost of $7000. The dedication took place January 27, 1895. Pastor Bittle reported two hundred thirty-two communing members at the time of his resignation in 1905. Benevolent giving for that year was $413. Rev. M. S. Kemp, serving 1905-1912, made pastoral visitation among the congregation one of his main emphases.

During the pastorate of Dr. I. S. Sassaman two lots were purchased on Grant Street and plans begun for the erection of a new church and parsonage. Under the leadership of Dr. William A. Logan the present church and parsonage were erected.

The valuation today is placed at $135,000. Dr. Logan resigned in December, 1953. During the pastorates of J. E. Bittle, M. S. Kemp, I. S. Sassaman and W. A. Logan, nine men entered the seminary to prepare for the Christian ministry.

Rev. C. Wayne Peterman was called as Alpha's pastor in 1954. At the present time the baptized membership is 584; the confirmed membership, 457. The congregation has progressed steadily in her stewardship, and benevolent giving in 1955 totalled $4765. Alpha stands in the center of an industrial community as an imposing and inspiring place of worship.

A complete list of the pastors of Alpha and Mt. Carmel in consecutive order is as follows: Michael Colver, 1872; J. H. Houseman, 1874-1875; O. F. Harshman, 1876-1879; Supplies, 1880-1886; L. M. Kuhns, 1887-1888; Charles Reinewald, 1888-1892; J. E. Bittle, D. D., 1894-1905; M. S. Kemp, 1905-1912; I. S. Sassaman, 1913-1916; W. A. Logan, D. D., 1917-1953. C. Wayne Peterman, 1954 —.

Uniontown St. Paul's 1885

AT the annual meeting of The Pittsburgh Synod of The General Council in 1885 attention was called to the possibility of organizing and establishing a Lutheran Church in Uniontown. After some deliberation The Rev. John A. Waters was appointed a missionary to canvass this city. He began work at once but found only a few Lutheran families. Not discouraged, he began holding services every Sunday in a rented hall. On the 18th day of December, 1885, Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, was organized with 41 charter members.

Very soon after the organization of the congregation the Church Council began to plan for the building of a church. Several years before The Rev. John A. Waters came to Uniontown, his father, The Rev. Asa H. Waters, Superintendent of The Pennsylvania Soldiers Orphans School at near-by Jumonville, had purchased a lot on North Gallatin Avenue, intending to hold it as a site for a Lutheran Church. The lot which Pastor Waters purchased increased greatly in value but he generously deeded it to the Trustees of St. Paul's at its cost to him, $1500.00.

In the spring of 1887 the building of a new church was begun. The cornerstone was laid July 24th, the service being in charge of the Pastor assisted by his father and the Rev. W. A. Passavant, D. D. The church was dedicated April 29, 1888. The Rev. Jacob Fry, D. D., and the Rev. Alfred Ramsey participated in the Festival of Dedication. The cost of the church was approximately $9000.00 and had a seating capactiy of 275. It served the congregation until 1924 when a new church was dedicated. Since then the old church, remodeled and with a commodious addition built during the present pastorate of the Rev. Gilson C. Waldkoenig, has been used for church-school purposes.

The Rev. John A. Waters continued as pastor until October 1st, 1890 when he resigned to succeed his father as Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans School.

The Rev. Alfred Ramsey served as pastor of the mission church from late in 1890 until April 1, 1896. During this pastorate there was a serious business depression in this region and many people left the city and community. The mission church suffered unusual losses but the pastor's faith in the mission's future kept the congregation resolute. Dr. Ramsey was for many years Professor of Church History in our Chicago Lutheran Seminary.

The Rev. George A. Gongaware succeeded Dr. Ramsey. His pastorate extended from June 14, 1896 until October 1, 1901. In August, 1898 the mission became a self-sustaining congregation and in February, 1900 it became free of debt. Dr. Gongaware left Uniontown to accept the Chair of English in The Greensburg Seminary. Some years later he was elected President of The Pittsburgh Synod.

The Rev. Earnest E. Trabert served in this parish from October 15, 1901 until August 31st, 1906. By his faithful and energetic pastoral work the membership of the church was greatly increased.

The Rev. Isaac K. Wismer took charge of the work October 1, 1906. The exact records kept by Pastor Wismer show a methodical and effective ministry. His work here ended September 30, 1913. When he retired from the active ministry he returned to Uniontown to be with his children and grand-children and become a regular and appreciative worshipper in his old church.

The Rev. John A. Yount became the pastor December 1, 1913. Early in his ministry a building program was approved. The old church was moved to the rear of the lot with the intention of building the new church in front. After the old church was moved the congregation decided that they could not proceed further with the proposed plan because of the cost. While this was a disappointment at the time, the present completed building plans show that it was a wise decision. The adjoining corner lot was purchased and this lot later became the site of a new church and it is one of the best church locations in the city. The Rev. Yount's pastorate closed September 1, 1917.

The Rev. Rene H. Williams succeeded Pastor Yount and began his work here December 1, 1917. During this short pastorate the prospects of building a new church were considered but nothing definite was done in the promotion of this work. Pastor Williams resigned to accept a call to Zion's Lutheran Church of Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The resignation becoming effective January 31, 1920.

The Rev. Herman H. Will began his long pastorate in St. Paul's June 15, 1920. He came to this parish with the definite understanding given him by the congragation that he would be expected to promote the building of a new church as early as advisable. At a special meeting of the congregation on June 6, 1922 action was taken authorizing the building of a new church. Construction was begun within the month. The cornerstone was laid November 26, 1922. Because of labor conditions and a shortage of materials the work of construction progressed slowly. It was not until May 18, 1924 that the beautiful new Gothic Church was dedicated. Participating in the Festival of Dedication with the pastor and congregation were The Rev. Ellis B. Burgess, President of Synod, and the former pastors, Dr. Ramsey, Dr. Gongaware and The Rev. Yount. The cost of the church was $85,000.00 and of furnishings $7,000.00.

Early in the summer of 1948 another building program was begun. A new and spacious colonial home was built for the pastor and with some needed repairs to the church owned buildings the cost reached approximately $35,000.00.

During the summer of 1953 the chancel of the church sanctuary was remodeled, redecorated and completely refurnished at a cost of approximately $20,000.00.

The records of the pastorate of Dr. Will show spectacular accomplishments in steady and stable growth in membership and in the advancement of unity and stewardship within the parish. They reflect the early years of prosperity, the years of de-

pression, and the return of such prosperity as we had never known before. When Dr. Will resigned the church was debt-free and there were substantial balances in all treasuries.

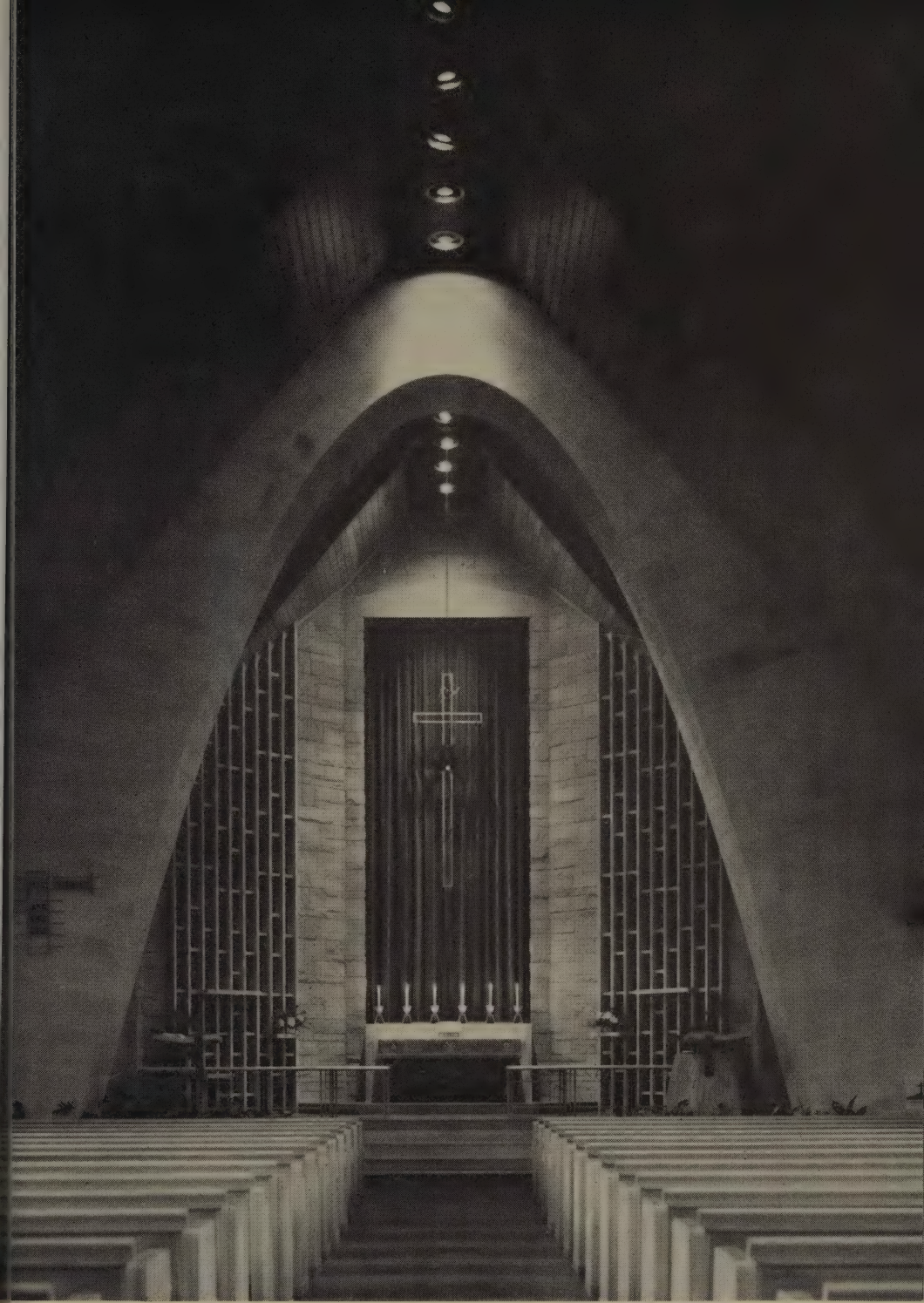
Dr. Will presented his resignation to the congregation on May 23, 1954. He took this action upon advice of his physician and because he no longer felt able to do the work required in the growing parish. Upon his urgent request the congregation accepted his resignation. He was then elected Pastor Emeritus by unanimous vote.

The Rev. Gilson C. Waldkoenig accepted the call and became the pastor of St. Paul's on September 28, 1954. With the energy of a young pastor he devoted much time to making pastoral calls and to organizing and preparing a program for the youth and children of the congregation. Within a few months a Nursery and a Children's Church were established and two Luther Leagues were organized. An active Brotherhood and a Women's Guild were soon functioning. There has been a notable increase in church attendance and a remarkable number of accessions to the membership of St. Paul's.

At a church council meeting in February, 1955, the pastor proposed the retaining of an architect to survey the possibility of enlarging and remodeling the educational wing, making any necessarry addition thereto and refurnishing to provide a suitable place for a chapel, educational rooms for the children and youth and offices for the pastor and secretary. The proposal was approved by the Council and Mr. T. Ray Fulton was retained as architect. The plans Mr. Fulton presented included other necessary changes and improvements in the church. His plans were approved by the church council and the Building Committee and recommended for the approval of the congregation.

At a congregational meeting held on July 3, 1955 the plans were approved by the congregation and the church council was authorized to proceed with the building plans which represented an expenditure, including the furnishings, of about $50,000.00. Work was begun July 5, 1955 and dedicated on February 5, 1956. The guest speaker at the Dedication Service was the pastor's father, the Rev. Arthur C. Waldkoenig, S. T. D., pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh. Dr. Waldkoenig together with Dr. Herman H. Will shared with the pastor and congregation the joy of this Festival of Dedication. The enlarged and remodeled building is attractive and commensurate with the present needs of the congregation. With this partial realization of our hopes and plans the pastor and members of St. Paul's look forward to new heights of achievement in the work of The Kingdom.

Pastors who have served St. Paul's are: J. A. Waters, 1885-1890; Alfred Ramsey, 1890-1896; G. J. Gongaware, 1896-1901; E. A. Trabert, 1901-1906; I. K. Wismer, 1906-1913; J. A. Yount, 1913-1917; R. H. Williams, 1917-1920; H. H. Will, D. D., 1920-1954; Gilson C. Waldkoenig, 1954 —.



NEW BRIGHTON, Pennsylvania TRINITY

FOUNDED 1888

This building was dedicated September 8, 1957.

Plate 29

PITTSBURGH (Wilkinsburg) CALVARY

FOUNDED 1896

PENN TOWNSHIP, Pennsylvania ZION UNITED

FOUNDED 1947

One of the most successful mission churches established recently.

PITTSBURGH FIRST

FOUNDED 1837

Perhaps the most urban church in the Pittsburgh Synod.

Plate 31

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania MT. ZION

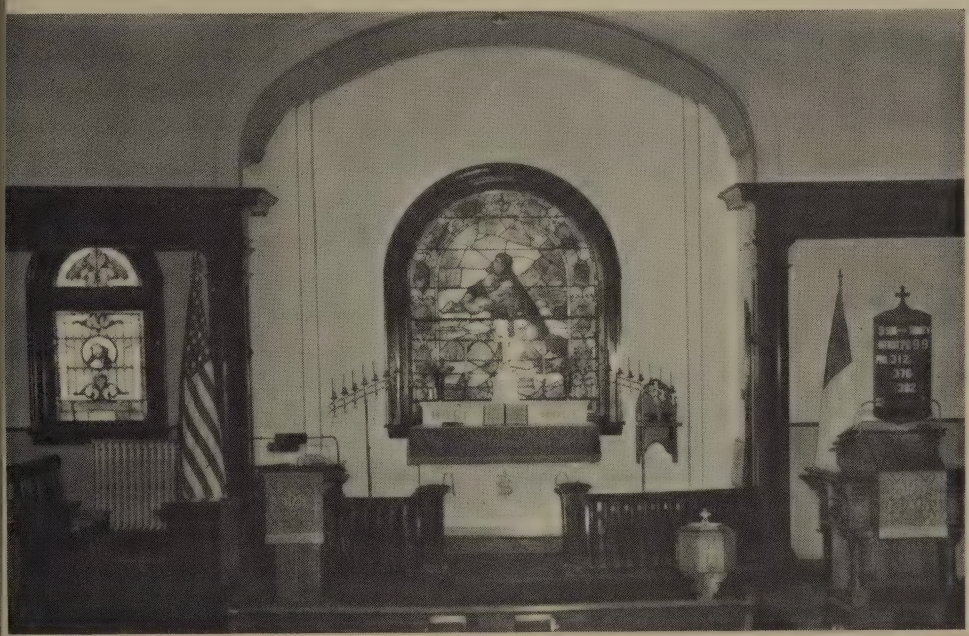
FOUNDED 1876

Plate 32

RIDGWAY, Pennsylvania

FIRST

FOUNDED 1872



PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania ST. JAMES'

FOUNDED 1905

Recently constructed parsonage for Grace, Rochester, Pennsylvania.

SCOTTDALE, Pennsylvania ST. PAUL'S

FOUNDED 1890

WARREN, Pennsylvania FIRST

FOUNDED 1842

SWISSVALE, Pennsylvania ST. JOHN'S

FOUNDED 1902

ZELIENOPLE, Pennsylvania FIRST

FOUNDED 1843

This is the third building in the history of this congregation. The first was a small, one-room structure erected in 1845. It was replaced in 1884 by a larger brick building which was outgrown and outmoded by 1904, when the present stone church was completed and dedicated. The first pastor was Gottlieb Bassler.

Upper St. Clair Township Faith 1949

ON Wednesday, April 20, 1949, a group of folks living in Washington Terrace, Upper St. Clair Twp., met in an upper room of the Mitchell Shopping Center to hear plans for the organization of a Lutheran Church in the neighborhood. This new residential area of greater Pittsburgh had been surveyed earlier by the Rev. Donald Houser, Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, and the Rev. J. Bender Miller, Pastor of the Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church.

Progress in the planting of the church in this community came largely through the initiative of the Rev. J. Victor Murtland, Lutheran Student Pastor, then living in the area who arranged for the Synodical President, Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, and the Missionary Superintendent to meet Mr. J. Howard Mitchell, a housing developer and builder. In an agreement signed on January 28, 1949, Mr. Mitchell offered to obtain a church site, build a basement unit for the church, and provide a parsonage at cost, if the Synodical Board of American Missions would send a pastor and build a church of colonial architecture. Under the supervision of the Synodical Board, the Rev. Norman E. Kieffer was called as the Mission Developer.

The first worship Service and Sunday School session was held in temporary quarters in the Mitchell Building on June 5, 1949. The building committee, serving also as the steering committee, composed of J. Howard Mitchell, Pastor Murtland, Kenneth Weis, and Pastor Kieffer, obtained the service of Rev. Hugh Warren, a registered engineer and also a pastor who was currently working with the Synodical Board in its building programs. He, together with the architect, supervised the construction contracted by Mr. Mitchell.

Though the congregation was not yet organized, the cornerstone was laid on July 24 and on Thanksgiving Day, 1949 the congregation moved into the basement unit for worship services. The formal organization of the congregation took place in the basement unit on December 4, 1949 with 54 adults and 31 children as charter members. Pastor Kieffer was called as the first pastor. The first council included: Henry Baltzersen, Kenneth Weis, William Henning, Kenneth Bertschy, Rodney Craig, J. Howard Mitchell, Ludwig Jaeger, Albert Roth, and George Dasdorf, Sr. A budget of $5700 was adopted for 1950.

Dedication of the church superstructure, seating 300, took place on May 21, 1950 with Dr. Shepfer as guest preacher. With 186,000 cubic feet, the total cost of the building at the time of dedication was $55,000. Several years remained, however, in the work of completing the building.

After some months of internal discord, the congregation called the Rev. R. Russell Riethmiller as the second pastor effective October 1, 1951. As the congregation continued to grow spiritually and the membership continued to increase, project followed project to complete the tower, install the organ, obtain pews and chancel furniture, acquire additional land, develop parking area and landscaping, and remodel the educational facilities. 1957 recorded a communing membership well over 200 and a budget of $18,000.

Two pastors have served this congregation: Norman Kieffer (Mission Developer and first pastor), 1949-1951; R. Russell Riethmiller, 1951 —.

Vandergrift First 1897

IN 1894 the site of the model industrial city of Vandergrift was a large and well cultivated Lutheran farm. Officials of the Apollo Iron and Steel Company saw in its broad acres the source of richer harvests than wheat and corn, and made it the site of one of the largest sheet mills in the world. The streets were laid out in sweeping curves, conforming to nature's lines, sewered, curbed, paved, and lined with shade trees; then beautiful Vandergrift arose almost as by magic.

The plans of President McMurtry included the building of suitable churches, and the offer of three lots and $7,500 was made to any denomination, whose accredited representatives would build a church, costing not less than $15,000, and pay for it within a stipulated time. Lutherans were first in accepting this proposition.

Rev. J. W. Poffinberger laid the matter before the Conemaugh Conference May 27, 1896, and was instructed to ask the Vandergrift Company for an extension of time. A conference was held with President McMurtry June 15, 1896, when C. F. Stifel, William Pore, and John Fite bonded themselves to build according to the general agreement. Three fine lots were promptly deeded to them. Pastor John W. Poffinberger of Leechburg was chiefly responsible for the success of this venture, making long trips to rural parishes and collecting large sums for the new church.

Ground was broken for the church September 19, 1896, when five apple trees of the Townsend orchard were removed from the site. The cornerstone donated by Mr. Hunger and Mr. Knepshield was laid November 12, 1896, and the church dedicated by Pastor Poffinberger June 22, 1897. Dr. A. Stewart Hartman preached the dedicatory sermon. The congregation was organized by Rev. J. W. Poffinberger and Rev. A. J. Bean May 16, 1897, with 117 members, of whom 48 came from the Apollo Church.

The church was built of brick, with a front and tower of cut stone, at a cost of $16,984, and the agreement with President McMurtry was kept to the letter. The first communion service was held in the new church June 29, 1897, and a Sunday School of 100 members was organized on the same day. Student W. A. Hartman supplied the church during the summer, and Rev. John W. Poffinberger became the first regular pastor October 1, 1897. This pastor served until November 1, 1901, adding 436 members to the congregation and accomplishing the greatest work of his ministerial life.

During the pastorate of Dr. Holmes Dysinger a parsonage was secured at a cost of $4,000. This parsonage was sold and the brick house adjoining the church secured as the parsonage during the pastorate of Rev. H. G. Snyder. President McMurtry presented a pipe organ to the congregation, which was dedicated by Pastor Holmes Dysinger. Extensive improvements were made to the church property during the pastorate of Rev. H. G. Snyder at a cost of $5,000. Among these improvements was the cutting down of the terrace and the construction of an easier approach to the building.

During these years there was a steady growth and development in the congregation, which also made a fine record in synodical benevolence. The pastorate of Rev. Roy J. Meyer showed a continued spiritual as well as physical growth. On September 30, 1928 Rededication Services were held at which time new chancel furniture was placed in memory of former Pastors Poffinberger and Snyder. The organ was electrified with new stops and chimes added.

During the pastorate of Rev. Samuel S. Shaulis, a strong Youth Program was instituted. A youth camp was started on the T. J. Rowley farm which contributed much to the recreational and leadership education of the entire community. At this time the physical church saw the addition of a Parish Hall. The pastorate of Rev. William F. Pfeifer, D. D., was alive with events of historical significance: Faith Church, Oklahoma, was organized in First Church December 1, 1946, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the organization of First Church was celebrated in May, 1947. A youth choir and kindergarten were started in 1948. The pastorate of Rev. R. C. Lauffenberger produced many new physical improvements to the church and parsonage, the addition of two new organs, an Estey electric for the Primary Department, and a three manual Schantz with echo chamber for the congregation. The present pastor arrived September 1, 1954.

The following Pastors have served the congregation: J. W. Poffinberger, 1897-1901; Holmes Dysinger, D. D., 1901-1905; W. S. Dysinger, 1905-1910; H. G. Snyder, 1911-1925; R. J. Meyer, 1925-1932; S. S. Shaulis, 1932-1942; W. F. Pfeifer, D. D., 1942-1949; R. C. Lauffenberger, 1950-1954; C. T. Schlotter, 1954 —.

Vandergrift St. Paul's 1902

ST. PAUL'S was founded at the turn of the century in the then separately incorporated "Vandergrift Heights," peopled by mill workers who declined to buy lots in the Vandergrift Plan. Instrumental in the establishment of this congregation was the Rev. J. W. Poffinberger, pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Vandergrift, who started a branch Sunday School on the Heights in 1901, and, who also secured a church site. On March 9, 1902 St. Paul's was organized with 69 charter members and the Rev. George Beiswanger was called to be the first pastor. In the competitive spirit of the age, another congregation had been organized in 1901 by the General Council, but St. Paul's was the survivor, being supported for a number of years by its sponsor, the General Synod.

A brick church edifice was erected at a cost of $13,500 and dedicated in September of 1903. In 1911 the congregation suffered an unexpected blow when its promising young pastor, the Rev. Earnest Smith passed away under tragic circumstances.

Property adjoining the church was purchased and the present parsonage built during the next pastorate. A peak growth was reached in the twenties, when 350 persons communed and numerous property improvements were made. The congregation was hard pressed in the depression, making the ministry during those years exceedingly difficult. With the advent of the war-years material and financial advance was revived. A Five-year Fiftieth Anniversary Plan, 1947-52, at a cost of $10,000 made possible the refurnishing of the church interior with custom-built furniture of ecclesiastical design and the purchase of a new organ.

Two sons have entered the ministry from this congregation: the Rev. Logan L. Kuhns and the Rev. James N. Frank.

Pastors of St. Paul's Lutheran Church were: George Beiswanger, 1902-1907; J. W. Gentzler, 1907-1909; P. J. Shriver, 1909-1910; S. E. Smith, 1911; C. G. Leatherman, 1911-1916; J. W. Shearer, 1916-1926; C. O. Frank, 1927-1940; M. B. Goldner, 1940-1945; M. L. A. Schilling, 1946-1956; Edward R. Kappeler, 1958 —.

Vandergrift Reformation 1949

REFORMATION is the only church located in a small self-contained community, Riverview-Kepple Plan, across the river from Vandergrift, Pa. In the summer of 1949 the synodical Board of Home Missions sent an energetic student pastor into the field to survey it and start work. By Reformation Sunday, October 30, 1949, a congregation was organized with 138 members, the largest charter membership until that time in synodical history. After meeting in the community firehall for the first few years, a basement unit for a new church building was built, with help from the congregation, and dedicated in 1952.

The first pastor was the Rev. M. L. A. Schilling, 1949-1956, who served as stated supply, since he was also pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Vandergrift. In 1958 Edward R. Kappeler became pastor.

Verona Trinity 1889

A MEETING of the Lutherans of Verona was called August 10, 1889, when Trinity Church was organized with 14 members. The first officers were Andrew Jack, C. E. Knoch and C. H. Woolslayer. The organizer and first pastor of Trinity was the Rev. Reuben E. McDaniel, who also served churches in Tarentum, Springdale and Natrona. The congregation was admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod in 1890. It was a feeble flock at the start, and much patience was needed to lay the foundation deep and secure. The usual place of meeting was the G.A.R. Hall on East Railroad Avenue. In 1894 the congregation had increased to 36 members, and a Sunday School was then organized with Grant Young serving as superintendent and William Shafer as his assistant. A Luther League and the Ladies Aid were organized a few years later.

A plot of ground, 50 x 75, at the corner of Allegheny River Boulevard and South Avenue, was donated to the congregation by the Brunot family. Pastor McDaniel resigned in 1901 and was succeeded by Pastor H. S. Gilbert. The parish then consisted of Verona and New Kensington. A charter was granted March 15, 1902. A parcel of ground, 25 x 75, immediately to the rear of the church property, was donated by Mr. Hyatt M. Cribbs, bringing the size of the church lot to 100 x 100. The cornerstone for a new church was laid May 4, 1902, and the building was dedicated August 10, 1902.

After a pastorate of eighteen months, Pastor Gilbert resigned. He was succeeded by Pastor Ira M. Wallace, who served from 1903 to 1909. During his pastorate the church debt was paid off in 1907 and Trinity became a separate parish in 1908.

The next pastorate was that of the Rev. John J. Myers, during which time much was accomplished. Due to his counsel a clear title was obtained for the church lot, which previously could only be held so long as it was used for church purposes. Pastor Myers was followed by Pastor William F. Pfeifer, under whose leadership a parsonage was purchased on First Avenue, for the sum of $2800.00. August 1, 1915, Trinity became a self-supporting congregation.

The resignation of Pastor Pfeifer occurred in 1916 and he was followed by Pastor F. E. Strobel, who served until 1920. He was followed by the Rev. Raymond N. Stumpf, who served 12 years. During this time a pipe organ was installed and dedicated. The church suffered a minor fire in 1923 and on July 4, 1928, lightning

knocked off the church steeple. Pastor Paul Obenauf, who served from 1932 to 1937, manifested a zeal for records and proper worship procedures. A keener appreciation placed the worship on a higher plane.

Pastor Obenauf resigned to enter Inner Mission work and was followed by Pastor T. Wilbur Eshenauer, who served from 1937 to 1944. During his ministry the fiftieth anniversary was celebrated.

The brief pastorate of Pastor Walter F. Fetterly was marked with an earnest struggle to install the Parish Record system. Pastor Fetterly served from March 1945 to August 1947. He was followed by Pastor Henry J. Behrens, who served until his death, July 21, 1953.

March 3, 1954, Pastor F. W. Hofmann took over the leadership of Trinity Church, and was the first pastor to occupy the new $16,500 parsonage located at 707 Maple Street.

The parsonage was dedicated May 9th after a week of "Open House" by Pastor and Mrs. Hofmann. This pastorate, still in its infancy, has been marked by the dedication of many memorials, chief of which is the most beautiful altar for the Junior Sunday School. It was fashioned by member Hugo Semrau, from materials furnished by the Married Couples' Class. The property has been put in an excellent state of repair, and adequate fire insurance has been provided.

The following pastors served Trinity: R. E. McDaniel, Ph. D., 1889-1901; H. S. Gilbert, 1901-1902; Ira M. Wallace, Ph. D., 1903-1909; J. J. Myers, 1909-1912; W. F. Pfeifer, 1912-1916; F. E. Strobel, 1916-1920; R. N. Stumpf, 1920-1932; Paul Obenauf, 1932-1937; T. W. Eshenauer, 1937-1944; Walter F. Fetterly, 1945-1947; Henry J. Behrens, 1947-1953; F. W. Hofmann, 1954 —.

Warren First 1842

(See Plate 35)

THE early records of Warren County indicate the presence of very few Germans until the beginning of the fourth decade of the last century. However, in 1832 we find some German Alsatians filing their intention to become citizens of this country. These German folks came from Rhenish pro vince of Alsace. German Lutheran families of Warren County perhaps held religious services in their homes before the guidance of a pastor was secured. The first visit of a Lutheran pastor to Warren cannot be dated with any certainty. There is evidence that there were occasional visits as early as 1840 when some pastoral acts took place of which there is mention in the records of the parish. The year 1842 appears to be the time from which a congregation can be dated with some certainty.

Pastor Henry David Keyl was the first Lutheran pastor of record to work in Warren County. He was a member of the West Penn and Alleghany synods. He rode on horse-back from Saegertown to Warren to minister to these German families. He held services every four weeks and, during the time of catechetical instructions, he remained a week for daily instructions. These services were first held in the homes, then in a schoolhouse and then the academy and finally in the courthouse where Pastor Keyl confirmed his first class in 1843. He laid a firm foundation for the congregation and then resigned in 1844.

The next two pastors were the Rev. Wilhelm Brumbacher and Ferdinand Wucherer. These pastors both belonged to the "Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed

Synods." On December 10, 1846 the congregation was granted a charter of incorporation for religious purposes. Plans were then laid for building a church. In February, 1849 Pastor Julius Francis Zoller came to the parish and at once collected all of the records he could find and recorded them with a copy of the charter. On July 19, 1849 property was purchased on East Street near Fifth Avenue for the sum of $50.00. The church was started and the members of the congregation donated their labor and nearly all of the materials needed to build the church. The church building was dedicated on September 29, 1850. Pastor Zoller remained with the congregation until 1852.

Pastor Conrad Kuehn was the next pastor coming to the parish in April 1852. The charter demanded that the pastor of the congregation belong to the synod, either in Pennsylvania or Ohio, so it was resolved to unite with the Eastern District of the Synod of Ohio. Pastor Kuehn belonged to the Buffalo Synod. Though this resolution was passed in 1852 no active steps were taken to carry the resolution into effect.

When Rev. Henry Weicksel became pastor in 1858 a new page of church life was turned, for a new constitution was adopted and the parish admitted to the Pittsburgh Synod. Pastor Weicksel was the first minister to introduce English services and he met with considerable opposition.

By 1864 the congregation had out grown their church and needed a new church building and parsonage. Plans were made at once and on May 12, 1865 three lots were purchased on the corner of East and Third Streets; the price for these lots was $1,000.00. The parsonage was built first and was completed in 1866 costing $2,500.00. On July 22, 1867 the cornerstone of the church was laid with impressive ceremonies. The church was built of brick, 48 by 76 feet, with a steeple 120 feet high. The church was estimated to cost about $13,000.00. The membership was 250 but only 119 made pledges to the building fund. The church was not completed at once but was finally dedicated two years later on September 26, 1869. German and English addresses were made at the dedication. In 1871 the Pittsburgh Synod held its annual convention in the new church.

In 1872 Rev. Gustave Adolph Bruegel confirmed the first class in English, although there was another class confirmed in German the same day. In 1875 an addition was built to the parsonage which cost $1,000.00 and a slate roof was put on the church building which cost $350.00. This parsonage is still being used today.

Pastor Philip Doerr became pastor of the parish in the fall of 1881 and served the congregation for 8 years. Much was accomplished during these years. On September 1, 1885 a new pipe organ was purchased and dedicated, costing $1,000.00. A sawed-stone walk and a wrought-iron fence were built and placed on two sides of the church building. The church was beautifully frescoed in the interior and the parsonage was painted . . . all involving an expense of over $2,500.00. In 1890 a daughter of the parish, Miss Lydia Klein, entered the Philadelphia Motherhouse, dedicating her life to deaconess work. From 1890 to 1891 Rev. William C. Mueller was pastor. He changed the plan of support of the church from pew rent to offerings. He also introduced the use of the clerical robe regularly and the Lutheran service of worship and brought the congregation to a more liturgical basis.

In 1893 a new constitution was adopted and it was printed in English, although services were still being conducted in both German and English. An addition to the church building was considered at this time but plans did not materialize.

Rev. A. B. Markley was called to be the next pastor in the fall of 1895 but he did not accept the call until January of 1896. He was installed in February and at once made plans to erase the church debt; he also planned for building an addition to the church. In 1897, Rev. William Bauer, a son of the congregation was ordained into the ministry. In August of 1901 the actual remodeling of the church was started and the cornerstone was laid in September. A large addition was added to the southside of the church and the complete sanctuary changed which cost around $19,000.00. A new Moller pipe organ was purchased in 1903 which cost $2,500.00. Pastor Markley remained with the congregation until September of 1903. The parish had 515 communicant members at that time. By 1904 English had completely replaced German.

Rev. William E. Brinkman came in 1906 and accomplished much during his six year ministry. The remodeling of the church was not completed at once, so the church was not dedicated until November 24, 1907 when the church debt was erased. In June of 1911 Rev. Walter C. Beck became pastor and he remained 9 years. During these years many improvements were made to the church and parsonage; the wiring of both buildings was one of the major developments. A second son of the congregation, Rev. Carl E. Bartsch, was ordained into the ministry in 1916.

Rev. Dennig was installed as pastor of the congregation on Jaunary 2, 1920. He at once made plans and took immediate steps to install Lutheran liturgical appointments in the chancel of the church. The new chancel furniture, consisting of altar, pulpit, lectern, litany deck and missal stand and altar hymnal, brass cross, altar vases, five sets of altar vestments, fair linen for altar and offering plates and alms bason were dedicated on Easter Sunday, March 28, 1920. All of these articles were gifts to the church. Two years later the wiring in the church was changed and new lighting fixtures were installed, also a cork flooring was laid in the church and new carpeting . . . costing about $10,000.00. From 1922 to 1924 Miss Mary Schueltz, who had trained at the Philadelphia Motherhouse, was parish worker in the congregation. Sister Katherine Schubert, a deaconess from Baltimore Motherhouse, served the parish for one year, helping Pastor Dennig with visitation, teaching and office work. In 1928 the house adjoining the church was purchased to be used for Sunday School classes on Sunday and for social purposes during the week. The cost of the property and the repairs made to the house amounted to $13,753.98. The Parish House was dedicated on October 14, 1928. Pastor Dennig spent a great deal of time with the youth of the parish and as a result three sons of the congregation entered the ministry: Rev. Raymond Lauffenburger in 1931, Rev. Karl Peterson in 1935, and Rev. John Shaughnesy in February, 1936. Pastor Dennig served the parish 16 years until his untimely death in October, 1935. The membership at the beginning of 1936 totaled 1731 baptized members, 1067 confirmed and 771 communing.

Rev. Edward K. Rogers was called by the congregation in February of 1936. He took up his duties in the parish in March and was installed as pastor on April 22. He did not believe in the use of sales, suppers and other schemes to support the church so these things were all discontinued and the church became supported entirely by Christian stewardship principles. The total indebtedness of the church at this time amounted to $8,535.23. The parsonage was remodeled and extensive repairs made to the organ. Also an accousticon system was installed in the church in memory of Rev. C. A. Dennig. In 1939 three new furnaces were installed in the church building, in 1940 the Parish House was redecorated. At the congregational meeting on January 11, 1942 the mortgage on the church buildings was burned. The congregation celebrated its 100th Anniversary from May 7 to May 24, 1942 with

many outstanding events. The Pittsburgh Synod also celebrated its Anniversary the following week, the convention being held in First Church. In June Pastor Rogers entered the service as an Army Chaplain and was granted a leave of absence by the congregation. He served in the Army three years and distinguished himself by becoming the most decorated chaplain in the United States Army in World War II.

Dr. Herbert A. Rinard, a retired army colonel, served the parish as Supply Pastor for the three years Pastor Rogers was in service. He held the congregation together during those trying years besides helping at various times with the services after Pastor Rogers return.

Pastor Rogers was discharged from the army in September, 1945 and at once took up his duties again in the parish. The congregation was constantly growing so now there was need of an assistant pastor to help with the many duties involved in a large congregation. In the spring of 1947 Mr. McCurtis Allison was called to become assistant pastor, he was installed on July 8, 1947. In addition to Rev. Allison's duties in the parish he was area visitation pastor at the State Hospital at North Warren. He also conducted vesper services at the Starbrick Community Church once a month until he entered the service as an army chaplain in 1950.

In September of 1947 memorial chimes for the organ were given to the church and dedicated on September 21. The percentage of communing members had increased in 5 years from 64% to 80%. In 1949 the parish sponsored a displaced family of four from Latvia who had spent 6 years in the displaced persons camps in Germany. The church furnished an apartment for the family and hired the man as caretaker of the church. In 1950 two lots in Pleasant Township were purchased for future mission work.

A major improvement to the church properties was accomplished under the direction of the Property Committee. The church and parish house basements were joined together and 7 new Sunday School class rooms were built for the children, also a new church office was built over the passageway. About 10,000 man-hours were donated in this work and the materials only cost $2,000.00. The membership in 1952 was 1580 baptized members, 1252 confirmed, and 1018 communing.

The present pastor, Rev. Frederick B. Haer, was installed as pastor of the congregation on September 10, 1952. In his first annual report to the congregation he warmly commended the congregation for its fine benevolent giving record. For many years a missionary has been supported, first at a salary of $1,500.00 a year and recently at $1,800.00, also the Women's Bible Class helps to support a native worker in India by giving $150.00 a year. Pursuant to this fine benevolent record of giving is the fact that 90% of all organizational and auxiliary receipts are given to benevolent causes. In 1954 the congregation was first in the Pittsburgh Synod in total benevolence paid.

In the spring of 1953 a call was extended to Mr. Stephen Stofcheck, Jr., to become the assistant pastor of the parish when he was ordained. Rev. Stofcheck was installed on June 15, 1953. In December he began to conduct Mission services in the Fire Hall in Pleasant Township and a few months later the congregation moved to the Grange Hall where services are continued at the present. This group, consisting mostly of members of First Church living in the area, are slowly welding themselves into a separate congregation with the view of applying for a charter of incorporation. At present, fifty have signed the application for a charter, and it is expected that they will soon be organized into a congregation with the name of St. John's Lutheran Church of Pleasant Township. A third lot was given to the

Mission in December, 1954 for a future parsonage. Pastor Stofcheck, Jr., after a successful pastorate of two years, resigned effective May 1, 1955.

Two more sons of the congregation were ordained into the ministry, Rev. Dale Soderberg being ordained in our church on June 27, 1954 and Rev. William Kuhre on June 1, 1955.

Early in Pastor Haer's pastorate the congregation was made aware of the need for more adequate educational facilities. In 1953 a Building Fund was started, and the members were urged to make monthly contributions through special envelopes inserted in the regular envelope packets. Early in 1954, an Executive Building Committee was appointed to "study, organize, and put into operation a building program." This committee soon recommended, and the congregation approved, the purchase of an adjacent plot of ground 62 x 110 feet with a two-story house, at a cost of $10,600.00. In May, 1955, another plot was purchased for $2,000.00 with a life-option on the balance amounting to $8,000.00, making sufficient space for future expansion. Presently the committee is studying the educational needs, and plans are underway to recommend the building of a new Parish Educational building.

In the spring of 1955 a call was extended to Mr. V. Theodore Benson to become the assistant pastor when he was ordained. Rev. Benson was installed on June 25, 1955. Besides his many duties he had charge of the Mission Church in Pleasant Township. In May, 1955 the congregation approved the signing of a contract with the M. P. Moller Co., of Haegerstown, Md., in the amount of $12,500.00 for the electrification and remodeling of the 50 year old pipe organ. The contract included a new three-manuel oak console. The project was completed before the end of the year at a total cost of $15,000.00.

During the past few years the Endowment and Building Funds have been substiantially increased and all benevolent causes have been met in full with excess. Since the church's organization, the congregation has sent 7 of its sons into the full-time Gospel ministry. Presently two more are preparing in college from the congregation. The present membership stands as follows: 1666 baptized, 1271 confirmed and 1045 communing.

In 1955 additional land was purchased adjoining the church property for the purpose of building a Parish Educational Building to meet the growing needs of the parish. On January 2, 1957 a Capital Funds Drive was launched for a building program. On October 21, 1957 the congregation approved the Building Committee's preliminary plans for the construction of a Parish Educational Building to be erected in 1958.

Following is a list of the pastors who have served the congregation: Henry D. Keyl, 1842-1844; Wilhelm Brumbacher, 1844-1845; Ferdinand Wucherer, 1846-1848; Julius F. Zoller, 1849-1852; Conrad Kuehn, 1852-1854; Friedrich Carl Brauneck, 1854-1857; Henry Weicksel, 1858-1863; Adolph Leopold Benze, 1864-1872; Gustave A. Bruegel, 1872-1875; Ferdinand C. H. Lampe, 1875-1878; George A. Wenzel, D. D., 1879-1881; Philip Doerr, 1881-1890; William A. C. Mueller, D. D., 1890-1891; George H. Trabert, D. D., 1892-1895; Abraham B. Markley, Ph. D., 1896-1903; George J. Gongaware, D. D., L. L. D., 1904-1905; William E. Brinkman, 1906-1911; Walter C. Beck, 1911-1919; Charles A. Dennig, 1920-1935; Edward K. Rogers, D. D., 1936-1952; Supply Pastor, Herbert A. Rinard, D. D., 1942-1945; Assistant Pastor, McCurtis Allison, 1947-1950; Frederick B. Haer, 1952 —; Assistants Stephen Stofcheck, Jr., 1953-1955; V. Theodore Benson, 1955-1957.

Warren St. John's 1957

ST. JOHN'S Evangelical Lutheran Church of Pleasant Township is the result of the interest of First Lutheran Church of Warren, Pa., in developing a mission congregation in Pleasant Township. Rev. Edward K. Roger, Pastor of First Church until 1952, in his 1949 Annual Report to the congregation, recommended that the "Church Council be instructed to further consider the possibility of beginning mission work in the Pleasant Township area." The Church Council was also instructed to secure property subject to congregational approval. The recommendation was approved. Prior to this, an area canvass conducted by the Rev. McCurtis W. Allison, Assistant Pastor of First Church, revealed a need in this steadily growing area. At its 1950 annual meeting, the congregation authorized the Church Council to purchase lots in the area. At a regular meeting of the Church Council held March 19, 1951, approval was granted to purchase two lots costing $1,200. An additional lot in the rear, costing $500, was donated by Mr. August Gross, Irvine, Pa., in 1954. Two additional lots were purchased in August, 1957 for $2,000.

Worship Services began on December 6, 1953, in the Pleasant Township Fire Hall by the Rev. Stephen Stofcheck, Jr., Assistant Pastor of First Church, (The Rev. Frederick B. Haer, pastor — 1952 to the present). In April, 1954, services were moved to the Pleasant Township Grange Hall, where the furniture could be arranged for a more worshipful atmosphere. By the end of 1954, there were 40 members on the charter roll. Since the first worship service in 1953, regular services have been held at 9:30 A. M.

The development of the mission to its Organizational Service September 9, 1956, was a unique one in many respects. The entire cost of development had been borne by First Church. It's willingness to have it's Assistant Pastor serve the mission at no cost to the Synodical Board of American Missions is almost unique in the history of Missions in the Pittsburgh Synod. Unusual, also, is the fact that of the 74 charter members, 58 had been originally members of First Church and lived in the area that the Mission served, 14 had joined the Mission before its organization and were carried as members of First Church until the organization and one joined the Mission by letter of transfer at the time of organization from a sister congregation. While retaining membership on the rolls of First Church, they all considered themselves, from the beginning, as members of the Mission.

A Mission Committee of three from the first church council aided the pastors in encouraging and developing the Mission. Mr. Karl Timm, chairman of this committee since its beginning, gave unselfishly of his time and talents to the work of the Missions. Individuals and organizations of First Church gave of their time and material gifts to initiate the work and bring it to its present fruition.

The organization service was held September 9, 1957. The first budget of the new congregation for current and benevolence giving was $2,601.50. The first Building Fund Drive was held in March, 1957 and $4,500 was pledged for a one year period. A re-visitation was held in connection with the first year Building Fund Drive in August, 1957 to increase the pledges to $6,000. Two lots were purchased in August, 1957 after it was found that First Lutheran Church had purchased insufficient ground for building purposes. First Lutheran Church is to be commended for its interest in mission work but much of it was done without proper consultation with the Board of American Missions or the Synodical Board of Home Missions.

An architect was hired in October, 1957 and the plans for the first building unit were developed in the ensuing months. Ground breaking was set for late spring or early summer in 1958.

The congregation worshipped in the Grange Hall until the first unit was completed.

The Rev. Stephen Stofcheck, Jr. served St. John's Congregation as Mission Developer from December 6, 1953 to May 1, 1955. The Rev. V. Theodore Benson served as Mission Developer and Pastor of St. John's from June 26, 1955 until 1958. In 1958 J. Edward Lilja became pastor.

Washington First 1798

THE history of this congregation goes back into the beginning of the community. Washington was laid out in 1781, and there were Lutherans in the area then, Germans who had moved westward from the counties of York and Cumberland.

There are no written records of their first religious activities. A letter has been discovered, written from Fayette County in October, 1782, which stated that a minister would be in the settlements the first week of December, and asked that word be sent to an Adam Koechler at Bassettown (Washington). Tradition says that as early as 1798 German Lutherans and Dutch Presbyterians of the vicinity were meeting in the home of a Jacob Weuler for "spiritual advice and comfort."

The Rev. Johannes Stauch, pastor of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, some eight miles distant, from 1791 to 1808, is known to have had several preaching points, and it can be assumed that he would have ministered to the Washington Lutherans at least irregularly during the period. The congregation considers 1798 as the date of its beginning as an organization, although it was not until 1842 that it became incorporated under the name, "German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church of the Borough of Washington." Prior to about 1812, the organization was known as the German Lutheran and Presbyterian Church.

In 1811 or 1812, the Rev. John Peter Mahnenschmidt became the first regular pastor of the group. Under his leadership a plot of ground was purchased at the corner of West Walnut and North Franklin Streets, and the trustees contracted for the building of a "meeting house," the price to be $170, the trustees to furnish all materials. This building, completed in 1816, served the congregation as its place of worship for seventy years. In 1818, a log schoolhouse was erected on the same property. The Rev. P. H. R. Mueller was pastor at the time of the congregation's incorporation.

The charter was in harmony with the general principles of the union Lutheran-Reformed churches of the day. It provided for the election of nine elders and trustees by a majority vote of the united congregations, whose duty was "to employ a preacher and provide for his salary." The Lutheran element in the union church proved to be stronger than the Reformed, for the latter was eventually absorbed. After 1860, there is no reference to Reformed members. However, it was not until 1884, under the ministry of the Rev. Dr. G. A. Wenzel, that the congregation petitioned the court for a change of name to that of the "First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Washington, Pa,"

During the pastorate of Dr. Wenzel, 1883 to 1895, the language question, which had been an issue of contention and division, was successfully solved by

holding both German and English services, and finally the use of the German language was discontinued.

With the charter of 1884, the congregation became established on a distinct Lutheran basis and entered into membership of the Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. For several years the parish received missionary assistance, but after 1891 such aid was declined as unnecessary.

The second church building was erected in 1885, on property located at the corner of Franklin and Beau Streets. This building, costing $4154, served the congregation for about thirty-five years. A parsonage was erected at the rear of the church during the pastorate of the Rev. C. H. Hemsath.

As the congregation grew, it came to realize a need for a larger place of worship and began to make plans for another structure. Several lots on East Chestnut Street were bought as a likely site, and in 1919 the church and parsonage were sold, the last service in this church being conducted by the Rev. Frank Jensen. However, there was no agreement that the Chestnut Street property would be the suitable location for a new church. For a number of years, therefore, the congregation held services in the public meeting room of the courthouse.

With the coming of the Rev. Frank C. Oberly in 1920 as pastor, a sizable building fund was begun and a spirit of enthusiatic purpose generated among the people. However, Pastor Oberly's ministry was terminated by death after eighteen months and building plans were laid aside.

The Rev. Harry B. Ernest became pastor in October, 1922. Under his leadership, it was decided to erect an impressive church and educational unit on that part of the original property which, in the earlier years, had been the graveyard and in which many of the first German settlers, their families and decendants were buried. A court order was secured for removal of the graves to a vault, fronted by a crypt-room in the new church which would preserve the old tombstones. This large, brown stone church was erected and furnished at an approximate cost of $200,000 and dedicated by Pastor Ernest in 1926. During the twenty-seven years of Pastor Ernest's ministry, the congregation grew substantially and came to occupy a representative position among the strong churches of the community. Upon his retirement from the active ministry in 1949, he was made pastor-emeritus.

The Rev. Reginald E. Dozer, D. D., assumed the pastorate in May, 1950. In recent years the congregation has realized a continued growth in membership, benevolent giving and consciousness of its responsibility to the Synod and the church at large. Its material assets have been increased by the purchase of a property adjoining the church and an additional parsonage. In 1953, for the first time in its then 155 years of history, the congregation was host to the Pittsburgh Synod in its annual convention. That occasion might be interpreted as a significant milestone in the journey of Lutheranism in this community.

The following pastors have served this church: Johannes Stauch, 1798-1806; Demas Hertzler (Reformed), 1806-?; J. P. Mahnenschmidt (Reformed), 1811 or 1812-1816; G. H. Weygandt, 1816-1829; John Brown, 1829-1834; Charles Swissler, 1834-1841; P. H. R. Mueller, 1841-1843; Abraham Weills, 1843-1855; G. C. Frederich, 1855-1857; John Haerdtle, 1858-1859; Rev. Weygandt, (dates not known); Michael Schweigert, 1866-1869; G. C. Frederich (German), 1870-1883; Supplies (English), 1870-1883; G. A. Wenzel, D. D., 1883-1895; C. B. Lintwed, 1896-1899; C. H. Hemsath, 1900-1905; P. Z. Strodach, 1905-1907; R. M. Smith, D. D., 1907-1916; F. E. Jensen, 1917-1920; F. C. Oberly, 1920-1922; H. B. Ernest, 1922-1949; R. E. Dozer, D. D., 1950 —.

Waterford St. Mark's 1957

FOR a number of years many people in Waterford were interested in starting a Lutheran Church there. In August, 1956 the priest from the Episcopalian Erie Diocese, who supplied the Episcopal Church in Waterford, offered the use of their building for the use of the Lutherans. In 1956 six pastors of the city of Erie together with the Synod's Missionary Superintendent surveyed the area around Waterford. With the help of the records from the Schweikert Funeral Home, they were able to locate a number of interested people. Approval for the starting of the mission was given when 60 people indicated their interest.

On December 2, 1956 Rev. George C. Reese, Professor of Philosophy at Thiel College, conducted worship service in St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Waterford. He continued to conduct services and build a congregation until July 1, 1957. A pastor's class was conducted in the Schweikert Funeral Home after the service. A steering committee was set up and steps were taken to establish a good beginning in church stewardship.

On July 1, 1957 Rev. August W. Heide, recently ordained, began his work as Mission Developer. Door to door visitation has increased the membership. Payment of $45.00 is made each month to the Episcopal Church; a mimeograph machine has been bought for $295.00; $10 is sent each month to the synod for benevolence; money has been raised for obtaining necessary choir robes; a modest building fund has been started.

On Sunday, December 1, 1957 this mission was organized into a congregation, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Mark's. Organization took place in St. Peter's Episcopal Church with 79 adult members and 43 children, making a total of 122 baptized members. Participating were: Rev. C. O. Dufford, Rev. L. A. Wagner, Rev. Donald Love, Rev. George C. Reese, and Missionary Superintendent Paul Daugherty.

Wesleyville Messiah 1916

MESSIAH Lutheran Church had it conception in the Lutheran Mission and Church Extension Society of Erie and Vicinity. As early as 1907 the two eastern suburbs of Erie, Lawrence Park and Wesleyville, were looked upon as places where Lutheran congregations ought to be started. In June, 1911 two lots were purchased in the Park and in 1913 the Society erected a building at a cost of $5500. It was thought then that possibly this one church would answer the needs of both towns, but it was discovered that the numerous tracks that separate the two places made it impractical. While the work in Lawrence Park was thus being pressed, a committee of the Society was appointed to investigate the possibility of starting mission work in Wesleyville. At a regular meeting of the Board August 13, 1912, this committee reported that they believed there was a field in Wesleyville and that Chaffee's Hall could be secured for services.

These findings were reported to the Missionary Superintendent, Rev. G. S. Rosenbaum, who then commissioned the Rev. M. A. Meier, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of North East, Pa., to open a Mission. His first canvass found twelve Lutheran families.

At first things looked very encourageing, but before a congregation was organized, there came a period of discouragement. Several of the most active families moved

away and there were none to take their places. Church attendance dwindled to almost nothing, sometimes two and three, and often only the pastor came. Then Rev. Meier resigned his pastorate at North East, preaching his last sermon September 26, 1915. The Rev. C. E. Read received and accepted a call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, North East, Pa., and entered upon his duties there May 7, 1916. While there was nothing specified in the call concerning Wesleyville, it was understood that he should also look after the Mission interests in Wesleyville.

It was finally decided that an attempt be made to organize a congregation. The Missionary Supt. and the pastor called on all prospective members and secured about 31 promises. September 10, 1916, was set as the day for organizing; 27 persons were present, a number of these visitors from Erie. A constitution was presented and adopted. The name "Messiahs" was suggested and adopted. With this forward move the people took new courage and renewed interest.

Now that the congregation was organized and chartered the next step was to secure a church property. A location was finally found and decided upon; it consisted of two lots on the corner of Eastern and Gray Avenues. Through the kindness of the Baptist people, their church was used for Sunday afternoon services. Services were continued here for two years.

On May 9, 1921, the new church was dedicated and on October 1, 1921 Rev. C. E. Read began his ministry as full time pastor in Wesleyville. On May 2, 1925 he presented his resignation to accept a call to the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Monaca, Pa. By this time the congregation had grown to 129 confirmed members.

In 1931 Rev. George W. Stough came to Wesleyville and remained until July 31, 1935. The period of Rev. Stough's pastorate was a time of wide-spread unemployment and financial distress and the work of the congregation suffered along with all other undertakings of that time. In spite of heartbreaking difficulties, the persevering and devoted work of Pastor Stough increased the membership by 50.

On October 6, 1935, the Rev. Donald L. Houser was installed as pastor and in the ten years of Rev. Houser's pastorate, Messiah Church went steadily forward, gaining in numbers, in influence and in spirituality. Large and efficient organizations among the youth contributed much to the progress of the congregation.

During Pastor Houser's ministry the congregation tripled in membership. On May 22, 1945 at the convention of the Pittsburgh Synod, Pastor Houser was elected Missionary Superintendent of the Synod. He preached his farewell sermon on August 12, 1945.

In September, 1945, Rev. Donald R. Poole began his duties as pastor and remained until August, 1949, when he resigned to accept a call as Mission Developer for the Board of American Missions in Albany, Georgia. During Pastor Poole's ministry many improvements were made to the church property. In September, 1947, a basement unit of a Parish House was dedicated. The building was constructed at a cost of $35,000.

The present Pastor, The Rev. Walter C. Koehler, Jr., was installed on June 18, 1950. In July, 1950, the final payment on the mortgage on the Parish House Basement was paid; the entire interior of the church was redecorated in 1952; a new gas furnace was installed; and, in January, 1953, the congregation unanimously approved plans to construct one more floor on the existing basement. The addition was completed in 1954, giving the congregation an efficient building valued at $85,000. In 1957 an additional piece of property on Eastern Avenue was purchased and the house thereon is being used for the Junior Department of the Sunday School. This

property is being counted on for use in the future. Plans are now being made for the possible erection of a new sanctuary. Seating capacity in the present church is 170, with Sunday attendance averaging over 240.

One indication of the spirit that has marked this congregation is seen in the fact that in 40 years, ten of her members have been given to full-time Christian Service. Pastors Luther E. Fackler, Pittsburgh, Pa., Andrew Schilling, Lancaster, Ohio, Ralph Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn., and Chaplain John C. Bellingham, USAAF, are sons of the congregation. In addition to these, three daughters have gone into full-time parish work with Miss Elizabeth Fackler serving for ten years as a deasoness. Three others have gone into full-time institutional work in the Church.

The missionary zeal of the congregation is seen in the fact that in 1957 the congregation will be fully supporting Missionary Joseph Diebert in Argentina.

Pastors who have served this parish are: Charles E. Read, 1916-1925; Charles C. Ritter, 1926-1931; George W. Stough, 1931-1935; Donald L. Houser, 1935-1945; Donald L. Poole, 1945-1949; Walter C. Koehler, Jr., 1950 —.

West Newton — Christ — 1830

THE Lutherans in the vicinity of West Newton were led by Pastor Jonas Mechling to form a congregation January 1, 1830. Meetings for 6 years were held in the public school building, where the first communion that is recorded, listed the names of 28 persons. In 1836 the Lutherans joined with the Presbyterians in erecting a church building on Vine street, the Lutherans holding one service a month. Pastor Mechling served for 17 years.

Pastor William S. Emery began a ministry of 11 years in 1847. Four years later, the Lutherans built a brick church of their own, on Vine and Third streets, 34 by 46, costing $1125. Dr. W. A. Passavant preached at the cornerstone laying. The Pittsburgh Synod met there in June, 1857. This ministry included St. Paul's Seanor, and Hope Hofmann's. Pastor Samuel Lawson served from 1859 to 1865, his ministry being ended by death, the burying place being the West Newton cemetery. The ministry of Pastor H. J. H. Lemcke was from 1866 to 1877, part of the time at St. John's Connellsville. A parsonage was built beside the church costing $1900, before Pastor Samuel K. Herbster was called in 1882.

When Asher P. Pflueger was called in 1891 he was the first to serve West Newton only. Due to illness he resigned in 3 years to be followed by Pastor A. H. Kinnard (1893-1897) when the church obtained a charter from the court. The old church built in 1851, was replaced in 1900 by another of buff brick and stone, 68 by 80, costing $10,000. It was cruciform in shape, having a large chancel flanked by a sacristy and organ chamber. At the cornerstone laying, Pastor Reed was assisted by his son, the Rev. Luther D. Reed. In 1912 a pipe organ was installed as a memorial to former Pastor Reed, costing $2500. A Parish House, 65 by 65, was built in 1926 costing $48,000.

Pastor Jacob R. Nicholas served from 1932 to 1956 — almost 24 years. In 1949 the pipe organ was rebuilt and electrified, with the addition of a Moller console, three new stops, and grilles in the arches of the organ room. An electronic amplifying and tower music equipment was installed. A garage was built beside the parsonage. In 1950 a triple anniversary celebrated 120 years of the organized congregation, 50 years of the present church edifice, and 25 years of the Parish House.

The list of 14 pastors is as follows: Jonas Mechling, 1830-1847; W. S. Emery, 1847-1858; S. B. Lawson, 1859-1865; J. P. Hentz, 1865-1866; H. J. H. Lemcke, 1866-1877; Philip Doerr, 1877-1881; S. K. Herbster, 1882-1891; A. P. Pflueger, 1891-1893; A. H. Kinnard, 1893-1897; E. L. Reed, 1897-1907; J. F. Scholl, 1908-1928; W. B. Sadtler, 1929-1930; W. A. Zundel, 1930-1932; J. R. Nicholas, D. D., 1932-1956.

West Sunbury — Rider — 1843

THE beginning of this church is credited to the work of Pastor J. G. C. Schweizerbarth, 1837-1842, when he held services in the schoolhouse. When Pastor Gottlieb Bassler took charge of the English work of the parish in 1842, this field was placed under his care. The Lutherans of the community were members of the Butler church, but the distance made regular attendance impossible. A meeting was held in the schoolhouse December 18, 1843, at which it was resolved to organize a congregation.

The congregation was named after Jacob Rider, who was born in York County in 1787, and came to Butler County in 1830. Christian Fleeger came to this community among the pioneers of 1797. Services were held in the schoolhouse until 1844, when a church was built but this church was not dedicated until 1847. After extensive repairs it was rededicated in 1877. By 1899 it was decided to relocate the church on ground donated by John Byers. It was built of frame at cost of $2,000, and dedicated by Pastor Shile Miller October 1, 1899. Under the inspiration of a new building the congregation took on new life and soon enrolled 100 members. The church celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1943.

The following pastors have served this church: Gottlieb Bassler, 1843-1845; Elihu Rathbun, 1946-1847; Eli Fair, 1847-1850; J. B. Breckenridge, 1851-1856; J. A. Delo, 1857-1859; Jacob Singer, 1859-1864; A. S. Miller, 1865-1867; J. H. Fritz, 1867; Supplies, 1867-1870; Samuel Stouffer, 1870-1875; David Townsend, 1876-1877; C. L. Streamer, 1878-1885; R. B. Starks, 1886-1895; Shile Miller, 1895-1899; S. A. Zimbeck (assistant), 1897-1898; S. T. Himes, 1900-1904; G. F. Scheese, 1905-1906; W. O. Ibach, 1908-1913; W. A. Logan, 1914-1917; W. E. Watts, 1917-1920; J. R. Nicholas, 1920-1927; John E. Reich, 1927-1936; George D. Wolfe, 1936-1939; Albert E. Speck, 1939-1944; R. C. H. Scholtz, 1945-1947; W. H. Kibler, 1948-1952; Melville D. Newman, 1952-1957.

West Sunbury Springdale 1876

IN July, 1876, a number of the members of Rider Church, in company with the few remaining members of Bethesda Church of West Sunbury, united to form the Springdale congregation. Bethesda Church had been organized by Pastor Jacob Singer in 1860.

The church was dedicated November, 1876. The church building cost $1,300, and is still the place of worship. Frequent repairs were made. Most important among these were made in 1923 when the chancel was furnished according to Lutheran ideals at a cost of $1,500. It was rededicated by Pastor J. R. Nicholas, September 30, 1923. It 1955, an addition of four large rooms for an educational building was completed at a cost of $5,000. A parsonage was bought by the three churches in 1899 in West Sunbury for $775, but was replaced in 1918 by the erection of a parsonage on ground adjoining the Springdale church.

The congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1951 and the Springdale missionary society celebrated its 65th missionary anniversary in September of the same year.

The following pastors have ministered here: David Townsend, 1876-1877; C. L. Streamer, 1878-1885; R. B. Starks, 1886-1895; Shile Miller, 1895-1899; S. A. Zimbeck (assistant),1897-1898; S. T. Himes, 1900-1904; G. F. Scheese, 1905; G. W. Fortney, 1907; W. P. Ibach, 1908-1913; W. A. Logan, 1914-1917; W. D. Watts, 1917-1920; J. P. Nicholas, 1920-1927; J. F. Reich, 1927-1936; George Wolfe, 1936-1939; Albert Speck, 1939-1944; F. C. H. Scholtz, 1945-1947; Wm. Kibler, 1948-1952; Melville D. Newman, 1952-1957.

West Sunbury Zion 1858

ZION was organized by Rev. John A. Delo in 1858. The first church was built in 1858 as a cost of $800, but there is no record of a dedication. The cornerstone of the second church was laid September 14, 1902. It was a frame church with spire. The cost was $3,500. The burial ground near the church was donated by William Byers. Zion is one of the three churches of the West Sunbury Parish. In 1938 Sunday School rooms and a basement were added to the church.

The following pastors have served this congregation: J. A. Delo, 1858-1859; Jacob Singer, 1959-1864; A. S. Miller, 1865-1872; Samuel Stouffer, 1873-1875; David Townsend, 1876-1877; C. L. Streamer, 1878-1883; T. A. Himes, 1883-1885; R. B. Starks, 1886-1895; Shile Miller, 1895-1899; A. Zimbeck (assistant), 1897-1898; S. T. Himes, 1900-1904; G. F. Scheese, 1905-1906; G. W. Fortney, 1907; W. O. Ibach, 1908-1913; W. A. Logan, 1914-1917; W E. Watts, 1917-1920; J. R. Nicholas, 1920-1927; John E. Reich, 1927-1936; George D. Wolfe, 1936-1939; Albert E. Speck, 1939-1944; R. C. H. Scholtz, 1945-1947; W. H. Kibler, 1948-1952; Melville D. Newman, 1952-1957.

Wheeling, West Virginia Christ 1909

CHRIST Lutheran is the only church located in Mozart, a hill-top area on the edge of Wheeling, from which it is separated by deep ravines. With the assistance from Zion Lutheran Church, Wheeling, many of whose members lived in the area, Christ was organized by Zion's pastor, the Rev. A. L. Benze, on October 9, 1909. Property was donated on the corner of Frazier and Richmond streets by Mrs. Mary Belle Frazier; and a church building was erected in 1909 at a cost of $3,700. A parsonage was built by the congregation in 1913. The Rev. D. P. T. Crickenberger, who also served Trinity Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, Ohio, was the first pastor. Mission status was retained until 1921.

Among the major material additions to the church was the construction of an annex for educational and fellowship purposes in 1949, at a cost of $6,500. Then, in 1956 an anniversary improvement program of $20,000, included the purchase of a nearby home as a parish house and the redecoration of the church interior.

Present confirmed membership is 452 persons. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Burrall, members of this congregation, are serving as overseas missionaries.

The pastors served in the following order: D. P. T. Crickenberger, 1910-1912; F. C. Snyder, 1912-1915; G. W. Critchlow, 1915-1919; I. M. Wallace, 1919-1925; J. O. Glenn, 1925-1938; L. K. Clare, 1938-1947; M. J. Roth, 1948-1955; M. L. A. Schilling, 1956 —.

Wheeling, West Virginia Zion 1850

MAY 19, 1850, Whitsunday, Rev. Frederick Zimmermann and 56 men withdrew from St. Johannes' congregation and met in old Ott Hall, corner Twelfth and Market Streets to organize a new congregation. The following Sunday, May 26, after a worship service an organizataion was effected. At the suggestion of May Adelin Zimmerman, the pastor's wife, the new congregation was called Zion. The full title was "The First German Evangelical Lutheran Zion's Church of Wheeling, Virginia." (Thirteen years later the state became known as West Virginia.)

Later the Congregationalist church at 2118 Market Street was purchased by the new congregation for $5,000. After some remodeling the church was rededicated as a Lutheran church in 1852. Also in 1852 the first parochial school opened with Mr. Unfried as teacher. He also did janitorial work in the school for one dollar a month. Later an instructor by the name of Dietrich assumed charge of the school. He was a proficient teacher and an accomplished musician. He instructed Zion's children and taught music until 1856 when Prof. Carl Mann began his illustrious career.

The pew-rent system was early introduced and remained in operation until 1866. Front seats rented for $3.00 per year; after the sixth row they were $2.50; and the last four rows rented for $2.00.

On May 21, 1862 at two o'clock Zion met with a great catastrophe: a tornado struck the edifice causing great damage. The roof fell in crushing three children: Leonard Ziegler, George Reiter, and Henry Fensinger. About one hundred children were in the school at the time, but most of them escaped. Professor Mann miraculously escaped death. When the wind began to blow, he dashed into

the churchyard to tie a tree which he feared would be blown down by the wind. Scarcely a minute after he left the room a heavy mass of brick and timber crashed on the spot where he had been standing.

Pastor William Berkemeir who had come to Zion in 1858 sought the counsel of "Mother" Vollmer, a pillar of strength in the congregation after the disaster. Upon her counsel the congregation met the following day and decided to rebuild Zion.

September 14, 1863 burial ground was bought for the congregation along Caldwell's Run. On March 4, 1866 a new bell weighing between 1200 and 1300 pounds was bought to replace the old bell that had been cracked by the cold of the winter. An ornament was put on the pinnacle of the steeple when the new bell was installed. Sometime before 1866 a chandelier was placed in the auditorium. This chandelier still hangs in the church.

Rev. F. C. H. Lampe who came to Zion in 1867 introduced the English language into the services for the first time. Language use in Zion has changed through the years. For the first 17 years it was German; then it became bilingual; for 74 years it was German or English; only for the last fifteen years has it been wholly English.

A new pipe organ was purchased in 1868 for $1,450. This instrument served the congregation until 1894. After 1874, during the pastorate of Otto Meerwein, Zion organized the Sick and Benevolent Society through which the members of the congregation were to help each other in time of sickness.

In 1874 the congregation purchased a parsonage which resulted in an indebtedness of $2,662. A lot beside the parsonage was sold to help through the difficult period.

In 1900, when Philip J. Hoh was pastor of Zion, the Golden Jubilee was celebrated with considerable ceremony.

When Pastor S. B. Stupp succeeded Pastor Hoh in 1902 English translations of the German hymns were distributed in the Sunday School. In 1905 an English adult Bible class was organized. Pastor Stupp merged the Young Men's and the Young Women's Societies into the first Luther League at Zion. When Albert L. Benze became pastor in 1906 English vesper services were introduced. Vestments were used for the first time by the choir. Extensive improvements were made to the church at a cost of $3,475.

On May 18, 1930 Zion celebrated its 80th anniversary. Speakers for the occasion were Rev. S. K. Strauss, Rev. Philip Hoh, Albert L. Benze, D. D. New altar cloths costing $250.00 were presented to the church by Mrs. Louis Bertschy. She also donated an amplyfying system in memory of her late husband.

In May, 1936 Mrs. Pauline Bertschy bequeathed to Zion $10,000 for the purchase of a new pipe organ. Installation of the new organ began in July of 1938 and was finished in August of that year. The organ was dedicated on September 18 of that year.

The attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 changed the language picture again at Zion. German services had been held up to and including that fateful day. That was the last German service at Zion.

During the pastorate of Williaim M. Erhard Miss Bertha Rasel and Mr. George Rasel presented the congregation with a set of bronze offering plates with scripture etched edges and a receiving bason along with a S. V. slide and film picture projector. The money came from the estate of Miss Hannah Rasel.

On December 5, 1848 communion was administered in two forms. Up to this time Zion had used the common cup. However, on this day those who wished could receive the wine in individual cups.

The centenary celebration at Zion began April 30, 1950. Special services were held every Sunday morning and evening throughout the month of May. Some of the speakers for this occasion were Mrs. C. W. Baker, then national President of the Women's Missionary Society; Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, then President of the Pittsburgh Synod; Dr. C. C. Stoughton, President of Wittenberg College, Dr. Paul J. Hoh, President of Mt. Airy Seminary.

In 1954 Zion remodeled the interior in a beautiful gray-green pastel shade, rebuilt the chancel arch, introduced indirect lighting, built a new choir loft for the young people. The total cost was $12,000.

Pastors who have served Zion are: Frederick Zimmermann, 1850-1858; William Berkemeir, 1858-1866; F. C. H. Lampe, 1867-1873; F. P. Mayser, 1873-1874; Otto Meerwein, 1874-1884; Paul Ziegelmeier, 1885-1893; P. J. Hoh, 1893-1901; S. B. Stupp, 1902-1906; A. L. Benze, 1906-1917; S. K. Strauss, 1918-1927; C. E. Grotke, 1927-1945; Wm. E. Erhard, 1945 —.

Wilmerding Christ 1899

IN the Spring of 1899 Dr. C. B. King, Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, visited this industrial community of the Westinghouse Air-brake Company with a view to organizing a Lutheran congregation. Finding a number of interested Lutherans, he held services for several weeks in rooms in the local Y.M.C.A. building. On May 21, 1899, he organized the congregation with twenty-four members.

Services were held in the Y.M.C.A. rooms for the first five weeks. The congregation then used the Public School Annex for the regular worship services until October 1, 1899. At this time permission was granted to use the third floor of the East Pittsburgh National Bank Building in Wilmerding, where services were held until December 18, 1904.

The first regular pastor to serve the congregation was the Rev. H. C. Michael. He began his pastorate on August 6, 1899. Until August 1, 1900, he served both Christ Church and Mt. Olivet Church, Allegheny. From this date on Pastor Michael divided his services between Christ Church and the Denmark Manor Parish until February, 1904. After this he gave full-time service to Christ Church.

In 1901 two lots, at the corner of Caldwell Avenue and Clara Street, were purchased from the Westinghouse Company for $2,380. The present church building was erected on the lots at a cost of $8,000, and dedicated by Pastor Michael on December 18, 1904. The Rev. H. T. Nicholas and the Rev. J. W. Poffinberger participated in the service of dedication.

The church was under the care of the Advisory Board of Home Missions until July 1, 1903. On this date it was transferred to the Home Missions Board of the General Synod. On October 1, 1910 the congregation paid off the debt incurred in building and burned the mortgage. On September 15, 1914, during the pastorate of the Rev. F. S. Will (May 1, 1913 - March 1916), ground was broken for a parsonage to be built beside the church. This structure was completed in February, 1915. The status of a self-supporting congregation was finally attained on November 1, 1919.

In 1909 Christ Church joined with St. John's Church of East McKeesport to form a multiple church parish. In 1914, during the Rev. Mr. Will's pastorate, this relationship was terminated and Pastor Will continued to serve Christ Church.

However, the depression demanded retrenchment and on September 21, 1930, Christ Church reestablished the parish relationship with St. John's. The Rev. W. F. Adolphsen came to the parish as pastor on January 1, 1931.

In 1931 a three car garage was constructed on the church property. On December 16, 1934 the Pastor and choir wore robes for the first time. During Pastor Adolphsen's term of service a son of the congregation, Earl S. Walker, entered Thiel College to begin his preparation for the ministry. This preparation was interrupted by military service during World War II but, after the war, studies were resumed and Mr. Walker was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in Christ Church on June 10, 1948.

In 1943 the Rev. Mr. Adolphsen resigned, to be succeeded by the Rev. E. M. Miller on November 7, 1943. During his pastorate the parish grew rapidly and relationships with St. John's were terminated in April, 1948, with Pastor Miller resigning the pastorate to serve the East McKeesport congregation. Christ Church then extended a call to the Rev. Donald W. Moore. He accepted and began his ministry to the congregation on July 15, 1948. By 1957 the congregation has grown from the original twenty-four members to a confirmed membership of 359.

The following pastors have served Christ Church: H. C. Michael, 1899-1906; D. S. Kurtz, 1906-1908; F. J. Matter, 1909-1910; J. K. Robb, 1911-1912; F. S. Will, 1913-1916; J. M. Uber, 1916-1923; J. M. Weber, 1923-1930; W. F. Adolphsen, 1931-1943; E. M. Miller, 1943-1948; Donald W. Moore, 1948 —.

Worthington Evangelical Lutheran 1847

THE History of Worthington Evangelical Lutheran Church dates back to the summer of 1847. Its origin was due to the untiring zeal and liberality of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Graff, who moved to Worthington from Pittsburgh in 1844 to take charge of an iron furnace that was situated on Buffalo Creek and was owned and operated by the firm of Painter and Co., of Pittsburgh. Mr. Peter Graff later became owner of the Furnace and operated it until 1865. Though born of German parentage, Mr. Graff was a native-born American of the Lutheran faith. At this time, 1844, there was no church here nearer than Slate Lick and Middlesex. Mr. Graff desired to see a Lutheran Church established here.

In 1855 Mr. Graff opened a Sunday School in the wagon-maker's shop. As Dr. J. W. Schwartz has said, "It was a bold venture in this vicinity in those days, for nothing of the kind had ever before been heard of here."

Mr. Graff gathered people, young and old, into his shop, which had to be made ready every Saturday evening for religious instruction. It was not long until the need for preaching was felt, and Rev. G. F. Ehrenfeld, who then preached at Kittanning, came out and preached for a while here. These early services were held in a small house near the iron furnace which Mr. Graff fitted up for services and was known as the Furnace Chapel.

This Chapel was in use about two years and then in the summer of 1847, a congregation was organized by Rev. George F. Ehrenfeld and Mr. Peter Graff, with 19 charter members.

This Furnace Chapel stood near Buffalo Creek and it served as a place of worship for about two years. Then the membership, having grown to such a size

that this building was too small for it, a lot was secured in the Borough of Worthington upon which was built the first brick church owned by the congregation and still remembered by the older members. It was built in 1849 and was a structure 42 x 52 feet in size and 15 feet to the ceiling. It was surmounted by a steeple in whose belfry was mounted the first church bell used in this section of the county.

A frame chapel to house the Sunday School was later built near the church. Here in 1860 the first County Teacher's Institute was held. The lower story of this chapel was used for many years as a school room, the first school building in the borough. One of the early teachers was a young woman, not only famous for her scholastic ability but had the ability for keeping order and discipline.

The first Brick Church served the purpose of the congregation well until overcrowding conditions forced the congregation, in 1888, to tear it down and build their present church edifice. This present artistic and commodious church building is 40 feet wide, 70 feet long, and seats nearly 300 people. It was erected during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Schwartz, D. D. in 1888-89 at a cost of $10,811 of which amount Peter Graff contributed $9,000, and the congregation the residue. Rev. Eli Miller preached the dedicatory sermon on February 17, 1889.

In 1894 the frame chapel was removed and fitted for a dwelling house, and on the present site, the Graff Memorial Chapel was built by the Graff family.

The Chapel was dedicated by Dr. J. W. Schwartz on Sunday, January 22, 1894 with solemn and impressive services. It was named the Peter Graff Memorial Chapel and was built by Mrs. Susan Graff and her children in memory of her late husband. It had been Peter Graff's desire to erect such a chapel during his lifetime for Sunday School purposes, but circumstances had made this impossible. So his wife and children fulfilled his wishes by constructing and presenting it to the church, free of debt, as a family gift.

The chapel is built of brick, with stone trimmings. It has two stories, the upper for the adult school and the lower for the Primary Department. The windows are filled with stained glass, most artistically designed. The interior walls were frescoed when built and the arched ceiling was lined with yellow pine and arranged in panel work. The wood was all yellow pine and finished natural color. Set in the front wall, on the outside of the building, is a marble tablet on which is engraved the inscription: "Peter Graff Memorial Chapel."

In the early days, when built, the chapel was lighted by a handsome gas chandelier, but today it is lighted by electric lights. The rooms were heated with gas stoves but today they are heated with a furnace. The cost of the building to the Graff family was $4,500. Its present value is $23,000 but would cost $28,000 to rebuild.

On the day of dedication, January 22, 1894, the Hon. J. Frank Graff, representing the family, presented the chapel to the congregation, through Rev. J. W. Schwartz, and he in turn, passed it over to the trustees, W. George Crawshaw, chairman.

The Heilman Brothers from Kittanning designed and built the Chapel. Ben Croft of Pittsburgh did the frescoing in 1894 and Chas. Decker of Worthington did the stone work.

This family gave to the Worthington congregation excellent equipment consisting of a new church, new chapel, sexton's house and parsonage with spacious grounds for cemetery and other purposes.

Land purchases which were made were as follows: In 1865 Council (Peter Graff, William Blaine, Henry S. Ehrenfeld, Joseph C. King) purchased one acre "strict measure" from James Barr and David Barr who inherited it from their father, James Barr, who purchased it from Gilbert Wright in 1831.

In September, 1873, 125 8/10 perches more of land were purchased by Council, Peter Graff, chairman, for the sum of $141.45 from James Barr.

In August 1913, Hon. J. Frank Graff, his wife, Martha S. Graff, and Melonna W. Graff, widow of Edmund D. Graff, gave the church for $1,00, the ground now used as a parking lot — South of the Highway. It was to be used as a "Hitching Ground."

In 1894, Hon. E. D. Graff purchased a lot containing 2 acres of ground adjoining the church on which there stood a dwelling house which M. Graff presented to the church for the sexton's home.

On September 26, 1924, the present parsonage was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Peter Graff III for the sum of $3500. Other tracts of land were added around the church in the neighborhood of 12 acres of land in the Borough of Worthington.

Dr. J. W. Schwartz writes: "The membership of this church has from the first, stood fair in numbers and spiritual life, compared with the other churches of the town and neighborhood. For more than a half century (1903) it has been the leading church in the vicinity, in membership, liberality and spiritual growth. Its influence for good has been very great. It has sent out into churches in other communities members enough to form a very large and prosperous congregation if they had all settled in one place, and yet its growth has been steady all the time." From 1867 to 1903 it contributed to general benevolences $38,318 and to current expenses $27,508.

The church was incorporated in 1883. On September 12, 1907 the church celebrated its 60th Anniversary and at the same time Dr. Schwartz his 40th year as a pastor here. Participating in the service were Rev. M. M. Albeck, D. D., S. J. Walker for the Sunday School, Hon. J. Frank Graff, Rev. G. E. Cable, Rev. W. K. Cozad and Rev. W. H. Nicholas, President of the Pittsburgh General Synod.

During the 100 years of the Worthington Lutheran Church's history, the congregation has belonged to the Pittsburgh Synod.

In 1867 Rev. John William Schwartz, D. D., assumed charge of the Worthington Parish. It was a very trying time as the General Council controversary was then raging in Armstrong County. In 1867 the Synod was disrupted, 16 County Lutheran churches remaining in the General Synod and 10 county churches going to the General Council. Dr. Schwartz was a leader in the General Synod faction and the Worthington Parish remained in the Pittsburgh General Synod. At Dr. Schwartz's invitation, the General Synod party met in the Worthington Church December 4-7, 1867 and effected a reorganization.

These synods were merged again into the "Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church," in Pittsburgh, on Tuesday, November 18, 1919; and their relationship has been a happy and harmonious one ever since.

For 100 years souls have worshipped on this holy hill. We cannot estimate the influences and forces generated here which have changed lives and opened up the Gates of Heaven to myriads of souls. Our fathers have built well. Let us thank God for their faith and courage and achievements. From this vantage point we face the future in great faith.

On June 1, 1956 Rev. A. W. Smith completed a ten year pastorate. During this period Pastor Smith performed 185 baptisms, 51 weddings, conducted 117 funeral services, and received 173 into membership. Total membership increased from 241 in 1946 to 401 in 1956. During this decade a total of $21,000 was expended on the Graff Memorial Chapel, the parsonage, and the sexton's house. A new altar, lectern and organ were installed in the church. The church grounds were enlarged and the Cemetery Association was incorporated. The endowment increased from $10,000 to $29,500. The church is debt free and all appeals and apportionments designated by Synod have been fully met.

Pastors who have served this church are: G. F. Ehrenfeld, 1847-1848; A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1848-1858; F. Ruthrauff, 1858-1859; C. Witmer, 1859-1863; H. J. H. Lemcke, 1863-1866; J. W. Schwartz, 1867-1911; H. S. Dollman, 1911-1912; J. W. Schwartz, 1912-1916; A. W. Smith, 1917-1919; P. T. E. Stockslager, 1920-1924; R. L. Yund, 1924-1928; S. S. Shaulis, 1929-1932; Charles W. Barnett, 1933-1941; Charles F. Schlotter, 1942-1946; A. W. Smith, 1946-1957; J. B. Slingluff, 1957 —.

Worthington (Adrian) St. Mark's 1824

ARMSTRONG County derives its name from Col. John Armstrong, who, with his little army of 300 men, destroyed the Delaware Indian village at Kittanning on September 8, 1756. Because of the troubled condition of the frontier, there were few settlers in the county before 1796. The first settlers were Scotch-Irish from Lancaster County, and Pennsylvania Germans from Lehigh and Northampton Counties in Eastern Pennsylvania. These German settlers founded the early Lutheran congregations in the county.

Armstrong County became a political unit on March 12, 1800. Kittanning was settled and laid out as a town in 1804.

The first settler in Washington Township, formerly a part of Sugar Creek Township, was Jacob Steelsmith who lies buried, with his wife and family, in the Fair Cemetery. Michael Fair married his daughter, Mary B. Steelsmith, and purchased land in the valley in 1822.

Among the early settlers in the Adrian section were Mr. and Mrs. John Christmann, who built a house and lived near Adrian where William Shaffer now resides. The big spring beside his house was well known in the early days. Other German settlers located here early in the nineteenth century included Wolfs, Ellenbergers, Schalls, Toys, Davis, Hellams and Hagermans. It was a German community, and the settlers came from eastern Pennsylvania.

Rev. John Michael Steck was the first pioneer Lutheran pastor to preach to the German settlers in Armstrong County. His itinerant ministry continued from 1796 to 1815, and it is possible he may have been the first Lutheran minister to preach to the scattered German settlers in Washington Township. Other Lutheran pastors who came early into the county were Rev. John Gothfried Lampbrecht (1813-1815). Rev. Peter Rupert (1815), Rev. John Adam Mohler (1817-1823). The oldest Lutheran churches in the county are: St. Michael's, Rupp's, Fork's, South Bend, St. Mark's at Adrian, Gastown, St. John's at Kittanning, Plum Creek, and Kellersburg.

The first reference to St. Mark's Church in the records of the Ohio Synod, to which the above churches then belonged, was made in 1824. A letter was received from seven congregations, or assemblies of Lutherans, asking that the Ohio Synod grant a license to preach to Karl Moritz Zeilfels so that he might assume the full

duties of a pastor in serving the preaching appointments at "Klingenschmidts', Schaeffers', Mechlings', Zions', Eisenmanns', Kittanning and Limestone congregations." St. Mark's was then known as the Limestone Congregation. The license was granted and Rev. Zeilfels became the first Lutheran pastor for these small congregations.

Rev. Zeilfels organized St. Mark's congregation in July, 1824, and the congregation was called the "Limestone Evangelical Lutheran Church of Washington Township." Rev. Zeilfels served these congregations only two years (1824-1825), and left the parish under unhappy circumstances. There was now almost a three year vacancy.

Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichert assumed charge of the parish in 1828, and remained until 1837, a nine year pastorate. Services were held in the home of John Christmann, near Adrian, and for this reason the appointment was called "Christmann's." in his private diary. Services at St. Mark's were held every two months, and Communion was administered every summer, usually in June, and sometimes twice a year. The Communion service held on June 25, 1828, was attended by nineteen persons, and on June 27, 1829, there were thirty-six persons present to receive the Holy Sacrament. The first class of catechumens was confirmed by Pastor Reichert on June 27, 1829. Pastor Reichert preached his farewell sermon in the home of Michael Fair on December 16, 1837.

From 1824 to 1823 church services were held in the home of John Christmann. From 1843 to 1856 services were held in the home of Leonard Fair, on the farm where Mrs. Millie Lasher now resides. The old house stood on the hill above the present house. Sometimes services were held in Leonard Fair's barn. For 31 years church services were held in private houses as the small congregation had no house of worship.

Rev. John Esensee transferred the services from John Christmann's house to Leonard Fair's house, and during these years, 1844 to 1855, the St. Mark's appointment was known as "Fairs", and occasionally "Bethlehem." The German language was used exclusively in the early days. Pastors K. M. Zeilfels, G. A. Reichert, H. D. Keyl, John Esensee and Gottlieb Kranz, preached exclusively in the German language.

Rev. J. A. Nuner introduced the English language for the benefit of the younger members This innovation was so offensive to the German element that many of them withdrew their membership from the church during Rev. Nuner's pastorate. Since 1854 St. Mark's has been an English congregation.

Rev. Thomas Steck preached at St. Mark's from 1851 to 1854 and services were in the German language, with an occasional sermon in the English language for the benefit of the younger members.

The members of the congregation, after worshipping in private homes for 31 years, longed for a house of worship. Steps were taken to this end, when a plot of ground was deeded to the congregation by Philip Crissman of 34½ perches of land, and another plot beside, by Leonard Fair, consisting of 135 perches of land. These deeds were transferred to the congregation on October 24, 1849, with Jacob Toy and John Fair, Jr., acting as trustees for the congregation. The congregation later enlarged their plot by the purchase of one acre of land from Joseph Crissman at a cost of $50.

On this plot of ground, during the pastorate of Rev. A. C. Ehrenfeld, the first church building was erected and dedicated by Rev. Ehrenfeld in June, 1856. The older members recall this old frame church building which was 30 feet by 40 feet, and stood a little below the site of the present church structure. The building was

plain, built of local lumber, by local men. Much of the timber and lumber in the building was cut from the church plot. The pews were home-made and a partition separated the men from the woman's side of the sanctuary. It seated about 150 people and it probably did not cost more than $2,000.00. But it called forth the sacrifices of those early members and served the congregation as a house of worship from 1856 to 1900. The present church structure was erected under the supervision of Rev. J. W. Schwartz in 1900 at a cost of $3,278.44; of this amount $1900 was collected by solicitation from among the members before the day of dedication.

This church was erected in 1900 and is 38 feet wide and 54 feet long. The cornerstone was laid on May 20, 1900, with Rev. J. W. Romich preaching the sermon, and the church was completed and dedicated on September 23, 1900, with Rev. C. B. King of Pittsburgh preaching the dedication sermon, while Dr. Schwartz conducted the service and formally dedicated the church.

The stonework on the building was done by J. M. Swan, and the main structure was erected by McGregor and Schaeffer of Kittanning. Much labor was donated and many gifts were received. The pews cost $390.00, and the pulpit $18.00, the windows $91.00, and the communion table $10.00. The pulpit chairs cost $40.00, the carpet $45.93, matting $37.88 and the choir chairs cost $12.00 The architect's fees were $25.00, and the foundation cost $133.40, while the superstructue cost $1,951.51. Members of the congregation gave free labor valued at $400.00. Samuel Crissman sawed lumber and so did William Hays, Sr., Howard Lytle, Roland Wolf, and Lincoln Rogers donated stone for the foundation and stone steps at the entrance. Mrs. S. J. Linton gave a communion set to the congregation.

This same House of Worship still serves the congregation. Only the front of the church has been altered with altar, cross, candle holders, and vases. The same pulpit is still in use but a new lectern was added to the chancel furniture by Rev. Charles Barnett, while the altar and altar gifts were added during the pastorate of Rev. Charles Schlotter.

Many of the early members of the church were buried in the Fair cemetery. The local cemetery has been here a long time. The former rule was that only trustees could authorize the digging of graves which were to remain at least 25 feet from the church building. On April 9, 1898 Leonard Fair donated the cemetery to the church, for which a vote of thanks was given him and the Council accepted the gift. We now maintain two cemeteries.

The Church was legally incorporated in 1887.

Early records of St. Mark's Church, prior to the pastorate of Dr. J. W. Schwartz are meager and incomplete. Many ministerial acts are not recorded and others are lost. Dr. Schwartz began his long pastorate here in 1867, and kept quite accurate records. These books are at the parsonage.

St. Mark's united with the Worthington Lutheran Church, to constitute the Worthington Lutheran Parish in 1855, under the pastorate of Rev. A. C. Ehrenfeld. The Pastor lived at Worthington. With the exception of four years, these churches were united in one Parish from 1855 to 1949.

When Dr. Schwartz became pastor in 1867, he divided his time equally between the two churches and each church paid half of the salary which was $600 per year, $300 for each church. In 1893, the Worthington Church requested St. Mark's congregation to let it have the pastor's time every Sabbath for a service, agreeing to relieve St. Mark's of $125 a year of its share of the salary for each year. St. Mark's accepted the proposition. St. Mark's share of the salary was now $175 per year. This was later increased to $225 a year when the pastor's salary was $760 per year.

The membership of the church had a steady growth throughout the long years, notwithstanding heavy losses by death and removals to other communities. In 1867 it had 62 members. By 1900 it had 197, by 1919 there were 250, and in 1949 we have 273 members.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized by Dr. and Mrs. Schwartz in 1879 and from 1897 to 1900 contributed $203 for Mission Work.

The church is now free of debt, has a considerable endowment fund for the church and cemetery upkeep and has a confirmed membership of 273 members.

Rev. A. W. Smith completed a ten year pastorate at St. Mark's in June, 1956. During that period 153 baptisms were performed, 18 wedding, and 64 funerals were conducted. Membership in 1946 was 157; present membership is 286. During this decade $11,000 was spent on the church building, in purchase of a nearby farm, and in repairs to the parsonage. Local expenses have been met in full together with the apportionment.

The regular pastors at St. Mark's were as follows: M. C. Zielfels, 1824-1825; Gabriel Adam Reichert, 1828-1837; Henry David Keyl, 1838-1842; John Esensee, 1842-1843; Gottlieb Kranz, 1844-1847; John A. Nuner, 1849-1851; Thomas Steck, 1851-1854; A. C. Ehrenfeld, 1854-1858; Frederick Ruthrauff, 1859; Charles Witmer, 1860-1862; Jacob Singer and Lewis M. Kuhns (supplies), 1863-1864; Hans J. H. Lemcke, 1864-1866; John W. Schwartz, D. D., 1867-1911; Harry Dollman, D. D., 1911-1912; J. W. Schwartz, D. D., 1912-1916; A. W. Smith, 1917-1919; P. T. E. Stockslager, 1920-1924; Roy L. Yund, 1924-1928; J. W. Dean, 1929-1932; Charles W. Barnett, 1933-1941; Charles T. Schlotter, 1942-1946; A. W. Smith, 1946-1957; J. B. Slingluff, 1957 —.

Youngstown St. James' 1800

LOCATED at the western base of Chestnut Ridge, about ten miles from Greensburg and Hannahstown and about the same distance from Ligonier, Youngstown early became a stop-over point for travelers to break their journey as they descended, or prepared to ascend, the Forbes Trail which crossed the mountain at this point. Later, when the Forbes Road was relocated and followed the banks of Loyalhanna Creek through the Chestnut Ridge Gap, Youngstown continued to be the convenient half-way point where travelers broke their journey.

A few settlers came into this territory about 1764, when we find reference to a Christopher Saxman, who, in that year came from Germany and settled on Loyalhanna Creek about one mile north of Youngstown. It is supposed that the family was Lutheran in background, for we find Saxmanns attending a Lutheran communion service conducted in 1817 by Pastor John M. Steck. A number of other families also located in the neighborhood; but it was not until the Pennsylvania Proprietaries secured the land from the Indians and opened a land office for western Pennsylvania in 1769 that people settled here in large numbers. By 1772, about 100 families were already in the upper Loyalhanna Valley, with most of them located on Twelve Mile and Nine Mile (Youngstown) Valleys. With the formation of Westmoreland County in 1773, the number of settlers increased — an increase that did not stop until the opening of the Revolutionary War.

The exact date of the founding of the town is not known, but as early as 1789, when Unity Township was formed, there was quite a village here.

For a number of years the families at St. Paul's (Ridge), Harrold's, or Greensburg which were served by the Rev. Anton Ulrich Luetge (1782 to 1891), and by

the Rev. John Michael Steck (1792 to 1830), a local provisional organization was effected, however, in 1800 when Pastor Steck made Youngstown one of his regular appointments. Tradition says that the first services were held in a log schoolhouse and in the homes of Daniel and Henry Kuhns. Early in 1815 the people decided to build a union church in company with the Reformed, and this was done under an agreement signed by representatives of both denominations January 14, 1815.

This historic Document of 1815 (see Page 188 of History of the Southern Conference by Rev. W. F. Ulrey) is evidence that both the Lutheran and Reformed congregations were permanently organized before this time. The church was completed and dedicated in the autumn of 1815 with Pastors John Michael Steck and John William Weber, pioneer Reformed pastor in western Pennsylvania, conducting the dedicatory services. It was 30 x 40 feet in size, built of hewn logs, finished and furnished in simple style. It stood for more than fifty years, when it was replaced by the present edifice in 1867, at a cost of $6,000.

The first communion service held in this log church, of which we have any record was conducted by Rev. John M. Steck November 16, 1817.

The first communion service is recorded in the Greensburg Church Book in the handwriting of Pastor John Michael Steck. In the same church book is found the record of the first confirmation service June 27, 1819, when 19 persons, ranging in age from 15 to 32, were confirmed. The older members of this class were in the majority, showing that these families had not been in closest touch with the means of grace up to this time.

The Rev. John M. Steck was the first pastor. In 1800 he added St. James' to the many other churches that he served and continued to serve Youngstown as frequently as his many churches would permit. In 1827 Father Steck began to feel the weight of years and resigned a number of his churches and placed them under the care of the Rev. Jonas Mechling. Pastor Mechling was already serving the Lutheran churches of the Ligonier Valley together with a number of churches in the northern part of the country. With St. Paul's, Ridge; St. James', Youngstown; and Christ, West Newton being added to the parish served by Pastor Mechling, it was necessary for him to resign the churches he served in the northern part of Westmoreland County, making the parish he served in 1827 to consist of the Ligonier Valley Lutheran churches and the three named above.

Pastor Mechling preached about once a month and built up a membership of more than one hundred. He was pastor for thirty-one years — serving from 1827 to 1858. He was more judicious in handling the language question that the Reformed pastor, the Rev. H. E. F. Voigt, and the result was that many Reformed children were confirmed in the Lutheran faith.

In 1859 the Rev. Isaac O. P. Baker became the successor of Pastor Mechling, whose parishoner he had been for a number of years. Pastor Baker had been serving the Mt. Pleasant and St. Paul's, Ridge church for four years prior to taking charge of St. James', Youngstown. For three years he ministered to St. James' in German and English. His career seemed just begun, when, on December 10th, 1862, he died at his home at Pleasant Unity. He was 33 years of age and had only been seven years in the ministry.

In the summer of 1863 the Rev. G. W. Busby was called. He was pastor almost six years, but ministered only in the English language. His services were acceptable to the English speaking members; but as a number of members desired services in the German language, the Rev. G. W. Mechling, a son of the Rev. Jonas Mechling,

then pastor of the Ligonier parish, was called as associate pastor. While Pastor Mechling's services were always acceptable, they were especially desirable at funerals, and at the celebration of the holy communion. Pastor Busby continued his work in this congregation four years longer. During his ministry several important events occurred. In 1866 the union between the Lutheran and Reformed congregations was dissolved by mutual agreement. The old log church was given up, as it was no longer fit for use, and the lot on which it stood, was, by mutual consent, made a part of the cemetery grounds of about six acres which was controlled by the Lutheran and Reformed groups — a joint control that continued until 1938 when, due to the dissolution of the Reformed group some years earlier, it became the property of St. James' Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Each group exercised its independence by purchasing lots and erecting a church of its own. The Lutherans secured a lot adjacent to the old lot — located on South Latrobe Street, Youngstown, and proceeded to build a neat and substantial brick church — Gothic in style; 40 x 60 feet in size, costing $6,000; and with a seating capacity of about 375. The church was completed and dedicated in the autumn of 1867.

Owing to the fact that a number of the leading members were dissatisfied with the services all in English, Rev. Amos Poorman was called. During the pastorates of Pastors Poorman and Weisman the questions of language, secret societies and pulpit fellowship caused sharp divisions of sentiment and threatened rupture. This danger was averted under the wise leadership of the Rev. H. L. McMurray, who served the church as part of the Ligonier Parish from 1877 to 1882. Duing his pastorate an old debt was canceled and the congregation returned to its former synodical relations as a member of the District Synod of Ohio.

He was succeeded by the Rev. J. L. Smith who served the Latrobe, Ligonier, Derry and Youngstown congregations from 1882 to 1892. In 1883 he led his congregation into the Pittsburgh Synod, General Council. During his pastorate the Ligonier Parish was successfully divided into three parishes. After a general renovation, new stained glass windows were installed and an organ purchased. He was also responsible for beginning a separate church record book for St. James'.

The problem of self-support was made easier to solve by Mrs. Caroline Fritz Johnston, who donated her commodious home for a parsonge June 6, 1903.

On November 1, 1902, the Rev. G. W. Spiggle became the first full-time pastor in St. James' history. It was during his pastorate that the congregation was chartered as a corporation.

The congregation remodeled the old church at a cost of $5,383. The church was rededicated December 15, 1912 with the Rev. Dr. William J. Miller preaching the dedicatory sermon.

Under the leadership of the Rev. W. E. Bauer who served from 1915 to 1923 the congregation continued to develop, not only in the grace of giving but in those churchly graces which delight the heart of an Evangelical Lutheran pastor. The pastor also served the Bethel Lutheran Church over the ridge — a relationship that began in 1907 and continued until 1948. During Pastor Bauer's pastorate a new organ was purchased, and twenty acres of land were secured for $2,700, which was developed as the "Upper St. James' Cemetery."

The 75th Anniversary of the erection of the present church building was celebrated in 1942; a new church roll was prepared — that was unfortunately destroyed by fire on December 13, 1942 — a fire that totally destroyed the parsonage and hastened the death of Pastor Fischer some months later.

In 1944, the present well-located parsonage was secured for the modest cost of $10,275.

With Pastor Adolphsen's departure, the congregation voted, on April 1, 1948 to divide the parish and have the full-time services of a pastor for St. James'.

The Rev. Robert Johns built up the congregation to its highest point in Sunday School and Church membership. Under his leadership the church plant was completely renovated, with a new organ purchased, at a total cost of $15,000, with re-dedicatory services being held October 9, 1949. The congregation celebrated its Sesqui-Centennial with a week of services September 24 to October 1, 1950.

On January 15, 1953, the Rev. Bruce R. Shaffer, D. D., assumed the duties of pastor at Youngstown after a pastorate of twenty years at Freeport. A new constitution for the congregation was adopted in 1954. This, together with the completion of the "Church Membership" roll marked the end of a task that was begun in Decembr, 1942 when fire destroyed the parsonage and with it some of the records of the congregation. The congregation has set-up a Church Planning Council and inaugurated a St. James' Advance Program looking toward securing more adequate space for educational and parish needs.

The present communing membership of the church 464 communing members with 290 members enrolled in the Sunday School.

The following pastors served St. James': John Michael Steck, 1800-1827; Jonas Mechling, 1827-1858; Isaac O. P. Baker, 1859-1862; G. W. Busby, 1863-1869; Geo. W. Mechling, D. D., (Associate Pastor), 1863-1865; Amos Poorman, 1869-1871; W. Allen Weisman, 1871-1876; H. L. McMurray, 1877-1882; J. L. Smith, D. D., 1882-1892; Isaac K. Wismer, 1892-1902; George W. Spiggle, A. M., 1902-1908; Ira M. Wallace, Ph. D., 1909-1910; F. A. Weicksel, 1911-1915; William E. Bauer, D. D., 1915-1923; Henry Voegtley, 1923-1934; J. Leonard Fischer, 1934-1942; W. Frederick Adolphsen, 1943-1948; Robert Johns, 1948-1952; Bruce R. Shaffer, D. D., 1953-1957; Donald Power, 1958 —.

Youngstown, Ohio — Grace — 1872

THE beginnings of this church are found in a humble mission established by Pastor Samuel Baeschler in 1872. When his large Mahoning Parish was divided in 1872, he moved to Youngstown and began mission work in the English language. His first place of worship was Martin Luther Church, but this was soon changed to the Reading Room Hall on Federal street.

For a short time the parish of Pastor Baeschler consisted of Youngstown and two other congregations, but this was divided in 1874, and he continued to serve Youngstown alone until 1877. His successor was Rev. E. J. Meissner who served from 1877 to 1887. A Sunday School was organized in 1878, Mr. F. Arnold serving as first superintendent.

The hall soon proved an undesirable place of meeting, and steps were taken in 1880 to build a church. In March, 1881 a lot on the corner of Wood street and Belmont avenue was bought for $500 and a legal charter was secured, October 25, 1881. The cornerstone was laid June 19, 1881, and the church dedicated March 11, 1882. The cost of this church was about $5,000.

By congregational resolution, May 1, 1887, Grace sought admission to the Pittsburgh Synod. While it was admitted as a weak mission, it soon developed into a strong self-sustaining parish. During the pastorate of Rev. E. J. Meissner, 1877-1887, the parish consisted of Youngstown, Girard, and Boardman.

The third pastorate was that of Rev. Homer W. Tope, 1888-1895, during which time the little church around the corner became one of the most attractive places of worship in the city. The energetic pastor added 793 members to the congregation within seven years, but many fell away owing to imperfect catechetical methods. A frame parsonage was also secured at a cost of $1,260 during this period, the Ladies Aid Society taking care of the deferred payments.

Jesse Leroy Miller became pastor August 1, 1897. Because of the location of the church near the noisy railroad center, he soon learned that a relocation was imperative. The chief obstacle in the way of this was the mortgage resting on the old church; but this was burned at a congregational meeting May 30, 1898. Plans were begun for a better church. The old church and parsonage were sold to the Electric Light Company for $6,000 and the Claybourne property on West Rayen avenue was bought for $5,500, March 3, 1901.

The cornerstone of the second church was laid August 10, 1902, and the building dedicated September 6, 1903. This church was constructed of brick and stone at a cost of $25,500, and the entire cost was paid within eight years. During the course of this pastorate the congregation grew in its appreciation of Lutheran order, while the confirmed membership increased by 1925 to 791. At the silver anniversary of Dr. Miller's ordination in 1922 he could report that 1147 new members had been added to the congregation, and also that $34,000 had been contributed to benevolence.

During the years Grace Church became known as the sociable church, and increased annually in numerical strength and in influence due to pastoral visitation and to sound Gospel preaching. In 1928 a modern educational unit was added to the church at a cost of $80,000.00. During 1946-47, the Rev. Frank Helsel served as an assistant pastor. After a pastorate of fifty-three years, Dr. Miller announced his retirement from the active ministry. His active association with his first and only parish ended with a social event that attracted not only the members of the Grace Church, but many friends.

The Rev. John L. Reiner was called to the pastorate of the Church Sunday, September 3, 1950. Pastor Reiner proved an effective and forceful preacher. There was a steady ingathering of members from various walks of life. The congregation grew in financial strength and purchased a parsonage on 833 Ohio Avenue for $8,600.00. Pastor Reiner built up the educational program for the boys and girls by organizing a "Youth Program," meeting one night each week for Bible study, recreation and crafts.

After a pastorate of almost five years, Pastor Reiner resigned effective February 15, 1955 to become pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Latrobe, Pa. Three months later the Rev. Ellwood L. Hauser, of the Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Kensington, Pa., was called to become the next pastor of Grace Church and began his ministry July 1, 1955. At a congregational meeting on April 29, 1956 the church council was authorized to purchase a new parsonage at 486 Norwood Avenue at a cost of $16,000.00.

George C. Reese, Jr., was ordained from this congregation to the ministry in 1944.

A consecutive list of pastors is as follows: Samuel Baeschler, 1872-1877; Elias J. Meissner, 1877-1887; Homer W. Tope, D. D., 1888-1895; A. D. Potts, Ph. D., 1896-1897; Jesse LeRoy Miller, D. D., 1897-1950; John L. Reiner, 1950-1955; Ellwood L. Hauser, 1955 —.

Youngstown, Ohio Honterus 1910

THE first Siebenburger Saxon families arrived in Youngstown in 1888-1889. By 1900 there was a colony of about 1000. They did not intend to make America their home, but hoped to save enough money to make themselves comfortable on their return to the Fatherland. For this reason they were not interested in the founding of churches, believing that any German pastor would be willing to perform the desired ministerial acts during their temporary sojourn.

Then came the tremendous changes of World War I, persuading them to look upon America as their permanent home. Their first organizations were in the form of Beneficial Unions (Krankenhilfsvereine) four of which were organized in 1901. As the sense of residence deepened, they began to think of their need of the church and the first services were held in the Saxon Club (Sachsenheim).

On June 10, 1910 Honterus Church was organized by Pastor George Schuster with 42 members, encouraged by missionary aid from the Pittsburgh Synod. A good frame church on Lincoln Ave. at Holmes St. was purchased in 1913. The congregation chose the name of the Saxon reformer Johannes Honterus. During the first twelve years the church had a hard battle to fight. Many of the Saxon (Siebenburger) immigrants had lapsed into irreligion and were bitterly opposed to the church, but the little company of faithful souls held fast to their faith.

On September 10, 1921 Pastor Schuster resigned and with the coming of Pastor L. A. Fritsch a new spiritual life was quickly manifested. His installation on October 23, 1921 and his admission to the Pittsburgh Synod in 1922 made a great change in the congregation. A Jugendverein (Youth Group) of 120 members was organized, a German Saturday-School was conducted. A faithful Frauenverein (Ladies' Aid) worked lovingly and efficiently. The Sunday School enrolled 250 scholars. In 1923 a parsonage was built and in 1929 the mortgage on both the church and the parsonage were paid and burned.

In 1943 the church building and parsonage were sold and a property on Wick Ave. was purchased for the purpose of building a new church and to use the large building for Sunday School rooms. On January 30, 1944 Dr. L. A. Fritsch resigned and on June 17, 1945 Dr. A. C. E. Grotke was installed. The same year a property on Glenwood Ave. at Lake Drive was purchased as a site for the new church, a more practical location. On March 12, 1946 Dr. A. C. E. Grotke died. The same year the Wick Ave. property was sold and a parsonage purchased at 610 W. Judson Ave.

On November 17, 1946 Pastor Wm. J. Welther, a son of Honterus, was installed. Under his very efficient leadership a new spiritual life began and, on March 16, 1947 the congregation voted to build a new church. A lively fund raising campaign began and, in one year's time, $30,000 was donated. On August 3, 1947 the plans for the new church were adopted and on June 20, 1948 the ground-breaking took place. A loan of $25,000, authorized from the Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Co., provided the necessary funds, and on November 26, 1948 the excavation for the

new building was begun. On May 15, 1949 the new church building was dedicated. On November 6, 1955, in only 6 years, the mortgage burning service was held. The congregation felt a great shock when Pastor Welther resigned to take on a new congregation at Grace Church, Rochester, Pa. January 1, 1956. A call was extended to Pastor Martin A. Lehfeldt of Trinity Church, Camden, N. J. He was installed on October 7, 1956.

Honterus has been served by the following pastors. George Schuster, 1910-1921; L. A. Fritsch, 1922-1945; A. C. E. Grotke, 1945-1946; William J. Welther, 1946-1956; Martin A. Lehfeldt, 1956 —.

Youngwood-New Stanton St. Luke's 1901

WHEN this town was established by the Pennsylvania Railroad, Dr. A. L. Yount of Greensburg at once looked after the spiritual interests of the Lutherans. A meeting was held in Kennedy's schoolhouse July 21, 1901, which was attended by Dr. A. L. Yount, H. M. Zundel, J. E. Wineman, W. H. Wineman, Mrs. H. M. McFeaters, C. H. VanDyke, W. J. Rummel, Mrs. W. J. Rummel, Mrs. Jacob E. Wineman, A. C. Miller, Nettie and Mary Bair, Mary Wineman, Mary Sullenberger and others, when committees on membership, constitution and church site were appointed.

Another meeting was held at the home of H. M. McFeaters, August 8, 1901, where St. Luke's Church was organized by the adoption of a constitution and the election of officers. The first officers were H. G. Wineman, H. M. McFeaters, J. Elmer Wineman, W. J. Rummel, C. H. VanDyke, Jacob E. Wineman, and A. C. Miller. Dr. A. L. Yount was elected pastor. The first services were held in the schoolhouse, but later alternated between the schoolhouse and the Methodist Church. A charter was secured December 18, 1901.

Lots were purchased on Fourth street, and the contract for the building of a church was let to E. L. Nicholson. The cornerstone was laid by Rev. George J. Gongaware November 16, 1902, and the church was dedicated by Rev. W. A. Bilheimer November 26, 1903. Pastor Bilheimer served the parish from October 1, 1903, to August 1, 1905, when he was drowned in the Allegheny River. During the pastorate of Rev. Ludwig Beisecker, 1911-1914, the last of the church debt was paid, a parsonage was built at a cost of $4,000, the parish became self-sustaining, and progress was made along all lines. Through all the pastorates, there was a steady increase in the membership, which numbered 193 at the close of the pastorate of Rev. E. O. Graham.

The pastors served in the following order: A. L. Yount, D. D., 1901-1902; G. J. Gongaware, 1902-1903; W. A. Bilheimer, 1903-1905; H. K. Shanor, 1906-1911; Ludwig Beisecker,, 1911-1914; E. O. Graham, 1914-1922; C. F. Frank, 1922-1936; H. M. Erb, 1937-1945; C. T. Schlotter, 1946-1954; Frederick Stueber, 1954 —.

Youngwood-New Stanton St. Mark's 1906

THE pioneers of this community were accustomed to attend church at Seanor's. For the benefit of Lutherans living in the town of old Stanton, an abandoned church of the United Brethren was bought for $800 and used as a preaching station. Part of the purchase money was solicited from members of Seanor's Church, and the rest was paid by John Long and Joshua Evans. A Sunday School was organized at once, and pastors of Seanor's Church preached here at stated times for several years, but no congregation was organized. In the course of time the town of New Stanton grew up about a mile distant, and it was deemed advisable to hold Lutheran services there. Pastor J. O. Glenn preached on Sunday evenings for several weeks in a hall in New Stanton, using the five parts of the catechism as his general theme. Such interest was created that it was decided to found a new church. A lot was donated by John L. Hunker, and the Stanton Church was rebuilt on this new site and refurnished at a total cost of $2,938. St. Mark's Church was formally organized with 26 members May 20, 1906, and made a part of Harolds-Seanor Parish. A charter was secured for the congregation August 9, 1906. The remodeled church was dedicated by Pastor Glenn December 16, 1906. The parsonage of the parish, erected at a cost of $7,150, is located in New Stanton.

The following pastors have served here: J. O. Glenn, 1906-1911; E. H. Kohn, 1911-1913; I. K. Wismer, 1913-1922; F. L. Will, 1923-1924; Supplies, 1924-1926; reopened by Pastor A. F. Schilling, 1926-1942; Frederick B. Haer, 1942-1946; Charles T. Schlotter, 1946-1954; Frederick Stueber, 1954 —.

Zelienople English 1843

(See Plate 36)

IN 1801, Dettmar Basse of Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, came to America to seek his fortune. Shortly thereafter, he purchased 10,000 acres of government land in the Connoquenessing Valley, part of which he resold to George Rapp for the Harmony Society in 1805. In 1807, Basse brought his family to America. It included his son Charles, his daughter Zelie, and his son-in-law, Philip Louis Passavant.

Business reverses made it necessary for Basse to dispose of his large holdings, part of which he sold to Daniel Beltzhoover of Pittsburgh and the rest to G. H. Mueller of Havana. The latter built a stone residence upon a hill overlooking the Connoquenessing, and here the first Lutheran services of the valley were held by Pastor Jacob Schnee of Pittsburgh.

The first resident pastor was the Rev. Johann Gottlieb Christian Schweizerbarth, who spent his entire ministerial life in this community. 1821-1853, planting Lutheranism firmly in Butler county. In September, 1821, St. Paul's Lutheran Church was organized by Schweizerbarth, and its large stone church, dedicated by him in 1827, still stands as a model of Lutheran church architecture.

When a strong demand for the use of English in the services of the congregation arose in 1842, Schweizerbarth suggested that a call be extended to the Rev. Gottlieb Bassler, a former private student of his. Bassler accepted the call and arrived in Zelienople November 13, 1842. He immediately began the organization of English congregations, reaching out from Zelienople to include other communities. The groundwork for the organization of three churches, to be designated as the Zelienople Parish, was undertaken simultaneously. These were English, Zelienople,

organized January 21; First English, Butler, January 16; and Emmanuel, Prospect, January 2, 1843. In addition, Bassler preached in English at Zion's, Middle Lancaster, a part of St. Paul's parish, from his arrival here until his death in 1868.

Arrangements were made for the Zelienople services to be held in St. Paul's with the understanding that the English congregation should "pay a rental of one dollar per year, be responsible for all damage to property, provide wood for fuel, and pay the janitor." Seventeen members signed the first constitution. Within three months a Sunday School was organized. The following year, with increasing church and Sunday School enrollments in the English congregation crowding St. Paul's facilities, it was decided to build a separate church. Philip Louis Passavant, father of William Alfred Passavant and Charles Sidney Passavant, one of the organizers of the English church, and a member of St. Paul's, made an offer of a lot and some building materials which offer was gratefully accepted, and construction of the first building began on the ground immediately to the rear of the present building. Dedication of the brick structure was held July 6, 1845.

Pastor Bassler's work was not confined to his parish churches. With the founding of the Orphans' Home and Farm School in Zelienople by Dr. Passavant in 1854, he became its first director, in addition to his parish duties. Increasingly heavy burdens in administering the Orphans' Home and failing health caused him to offer his resignation in 1858, but when it was impossible to find a successor, he resumed his duties until 1864. From then until his death October 3, 1868, he continued to supply the pulpit between pastorates.

During the pastorate of Rev. M. L. Kunkelman, St. Mark's of Lilyville was organized and became part of the parish 1872-1876. In 1873, the straying members of Oak Grove, originally organized by Pastor Bassler in 1867, were gathered together by Pastor Kunkleman and also became a part of the parish until 1902. In 1883, the second church building, a brick structure, was erected on the original site under the direction of Rev. V. B. Christy and was dedicated January 13, 1884. When certain dangerous defects developed in this building, the present lot at the corner of Grandview Avenue and High Street was purchased and a Gothic stone structure begun. The cornerstone was laid August 30, 1903, and the building dedicated November 7, 1904, by Pastor L. O. Benze. During the pastorate of Dr. M. M. Allbeck, a two-manuel pipe organ was installed and the chancel rebuilt in 1920-1921. Increasing needs for space for the church school resulted in enlarging the basement in 1948 under Pastor F. H. Schott. On the fiftieth anniversary of the present building, November 7, 1954, the rebuilt organ, its new console, and choir pews were dedicated.

The congregation has had a very close relationship with the two institutions of the Synod of Zelienople. The Old Peoples Home has received ministerial services from time to time, while the children of the Orphans' Home and Farm School (now the Lutheran Childrens Home) attend its services, church school, and catechetical classes and are received as members. In addition to Pastor Bassler, the congregation shared Pastor J. A. Kribbs as director of the Home from 1878 to 1880, and Pastor Seiberling left this congregation to become its director in 1946.

The following men have entered the ministry from this fruitful parish: Michael Colver, Henry Geisz, John A. Kribbs, Franklin Richards, Lewis Hay, Peter Riffer, Jacob Ash, Charles W. White, Henry Voegtley, John S. Albert, Norman D. Goehring, Alvin E. Teichart, Willard D. Allbeck, E. Stewart Proper, John T. Braughler, and David R. Schweingruber. Miss Agnes Shade was a member of this congregation while serving as missionary to India, and Miss Virginia Boyer lost her life at sea on her way to the same mission field in 1922.

The following pastors have served here: Gottlieb Bassler, 1843-1864; Jonathan Sarver, 1864-1866; G. W. Frederick, 1867; M. L. Kunkelman, 1868-1877; J. A. Kribbs, 1878-1881; V. B. Christy, 1881-1890; R. R. Durst, 1890-1896; L. O. Benze, 1896-1905; L. J. Baker, 1905-1909; F. C. Longaker, 1909-1913; G. H. Schnur, D. D., 1914-1918; M. M. Allbeck, D. D., 1919-1922; O. R. Heil, 1932-1938; P. W. Seiberling, D. D., 1938-1946; W. E. Fisher, 1946-1947; F. H. Schott, 1947-1952; E. J. Alexis, 1952 —.

Zelienople Oak Grove 1873

GOTTLIEB Bassler, pastor of the English Church, Zelienople, officiated at divine services in the Bonzo schoolhouse in 1867. Apparently Pastor Bassler's ministry to this area was never official for no congregation was formally organized during his visits. A Christian school was begun, however, under the direction of Andrew Bonzo. Several clergymen, among them W. A. Passavant, supplied the mission from 1868 (the year of Bassler's death) until the coming of M. L. Kunkelman. Pastor Kunkelman officiated at services until 1873. On March 15 of that year, Oak Grove Church was founded and the first officers elected. Congregational records suggest that a constitution was adopted shortly after organization, though the original document has been lost. The present constitution dates from May 6, 1879 (during the pastorate of J. A. Kribbs).

The congregation did not delay in constructing a place for worship. Henry Bonzo donated a half-acre oak grove on which, when partly cleared, was built a small frame chapel. The dedicatory celebration took place August 16, 1874. On October 1905, the congregation laid the cornerstone for a new chapel. This structure, appointed for soundly liturgical worship, was dedicated February 11, 1906. More ground had been previously secured which increased the size of the churchlands to about three acres. The congregation also purchased ground several miles from the church which was subsequently used as a cemetery. The parsonage was erected just opposite the church in 1908. Both buildings have been renovated throughout the years. In 1948 a basement to the chapel was excavated and finished for educational and social purposes. The congregation began construction of a new parsonage which was completed in 1956. Still more ground has been obtained as an athletic field to answer the recreational needs of the people.

Oak Grove Church was admitted to synodical membership in 1875 and was made a part of the Zelienople parish. Services were conducted on alternate Sunday afternoons. The parish relationship with Zelienople continued until August 1902 when E. H. Daugherty was called as full-time pastor of the congregation. A full schedule of worship services was then adopted. In 1923, by action of the Pittsburgh Synod. Hope Church (near Evans City, Butler County) and Oak Grove were constituted one parish. That parochial alignment continued until 1955 when Oak Grove and St. Mark's (Lilyville) were coupled. (Hope was made a part of the Middle Lancaster charge.)

During the exodus from country to town in the 1930's, Oak Grove suffered as did many rural congregations. The drop in agricultural value and the depressed financial conditions hit hard. Since about 1946, however, the church's position has improved markedly. New Sewickley Township has moved from rural to urban status and has experienced some population increase. Oak Grove has benefited from this increase.

The pastors were: M. L. Kunkelman, 1873-1877; J. A. Kribbs, 1878-1881; V. B. Christy, 1881-1890; R. R. Durst, 1890-1895; L. O. Benze, 1896-1902; E. H. Daugherty, 1902-1907; J. J. Myers, 1907-1909; F. W. Ash, 1909-1914; F. C. Snyder, 1915-1916; G. J. Diener, 1916-1920; A. G. Fisher, 1923-1931; Guy M. Wilson, 1931-1941; E. G. Hoffman, 1941-1946; Frank H. Miller, 1946-1951; Vacant, 1951-1953; Louis H. Hetrick, 1953-1955; W. W. Kuhre, 1955-1958.

Zelienople (Lillyville) St. Mark's 1872

DURING the summer of 1872, M. L. Kunkelman, pastor of English Church, Zelienople, officiated at divine services and preached the gospel to the residents of Lillyville. Later in the year the Lutherans of that community decided that a congregation should be formally established. St. Mark's was founded December 29, 1872. Pastor Kunkelman, Andrew Nagel, anad E. Autenreith were appointed as a constitution committee. The constitution they prepared was adopted by the congregation on January 11, 1873. At that time the first councilmen were elected.

The appointed building committee, Andrew Nagel, E. Autenreith, and John Doutt, arranged for the raising of a chapel. Work began early in the spring of 1873 and was finished by August 30, when Pastor Kunkelman dedicated the frame structure. W. A. Passavant preached the dedicatory sermon.

Throughout the history of St. Mark's Church, renovations and rearrangements of the chapel have been made. During the pastorate of Ira J. Goehring, the chancel was appointed in accordance with historic liturgical worship. The congregation built and furnished a bell tower. In the Spring of 1946 the interior of the structure was renovated; a more modern heating system was installed.

In 1912 St. Mark's and Zion were constituted the Middle Lancaster Parish. This arrangement remained in effect until June, 1955, when St. Mark's and Oak Grove (New Sewickley Township, Beaver County) were coupled at the parish level by synodical action.

St. Mark's is located in the median position between Elwood City and Zelienople. In the days of less efficient means of transportation, the church was a welcome addition to a rural farming community. In the agricultural community lay the strength of the church. It has suffered, however, from the decline which characterizes many such areas. Member families have moved away; families settling in the area have for the most part continued their membership in town churches. While the congregation was never strong in numbers, its outlook now is not particularly favorable. In 1958 it was disbanded.

The following pastors have served here: M. L. Kunkelman, 1872-1876; Peter Riffer, 1877-1890; G. J. Diener, 1891-1894; H. K. Shanor, 1895-1896; Peter Riffer (second term), 1987-1901; A. P. Lentz, 1902-1911; R. W. Yeany (supply), 1912; I. J. Goehring, 1913-1925; H. C. Glander, 1925-1927; F. C. H. Scholz, 1927-1930; I. J. Goehring (supply), 1930-1931; W. T. Wilson, 1931-1938; W. H. Mitchell, 1937-1942; H. F. Obenauf, 1942-1955; W. W. Kuhre, 1955-1958.

Zelienople Seaman Memorial 1928

SEAMAN Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized April 7, 1928. Name given as memorial to Joseph S. Seaman, one of the founder of the Home. A constitution was adopted as written by Dr. Ellis B. Burgess, then President of the Pittsburgh Synod. The Rev. Frank W. Richter was called as pastor and Superintendent of the Old People's Home and took charge in February, 1928, serving until his death, October 5, 1933.

According to the constitution, the pastor is appointed by the Board of Managers of the Home. Objects for organization are: preaching the Gospel, the administration of the Sacraments and spiritual care of the family. Benevolences of the church are to be supported.

Thirty-four charter members were recorded. Part of the present dining room was used as the chapel until the new chapel was dedicated in 1951.

Pastors throughout the Synod supplied the pulpit from 1933 to 1940. The Rev. William F. Pfeifer, D. D., was called as Superintendent of the Home and pastor of the congregation, being installed January 21, 1940. He served until 1942. Following this resignation the Rev. Charles W. White, D. D., Superintendent of the Children's Home, was called and served until his untimely death that same year, 1942.

The Rev. Philip W. Seiberling, D. D., supplied from 1942 to 1951.

The Rev. Hugh E. Warren was called to be Superintendent of the Home and pastor of the congregation from 1951 to 1958. Paul Scholl succeeded Pastor Warren in 1958.

Appendix

Congregations Transferred To Sister Synods

A synod is like a family. As the members grow older, they sometimes move away to other parts and associate themselves with other groups. Some congregations had their start with the Pittsburgh Synod, but they later felt that their interests would be better served by affiliation with a sister synod. Nine congregations that were affiliated with our synod before 1925 have since gone to other synods. We still have an interest in them as we would be interested in a member of the family that had gone to another part of the country.

Altoona, Pa. St. James' 1860

Rev. Henry Seifert of the Allegheny Synod organized this congregation. In 1862, two years after its organization, St. James was affiliated with the Allgeheny Synod. It was during the pastorate of Rev. Michael Wolf (1864-1875) that this church was transferred to the Pittsburgh Synod. Pastor Wolf's successor was Rev. Carl Jaeckel. During the last year of his pastorate attempts were made to change the constitution so that the church would not be bound to the Pittsburgh Synod. Largely through the efforts of Wm. A. Passavant this crisis was passed. In 1882 a charter was secured that bound the church to the Pittsburgh Synod. In 1952 the congregation was transferred to the Central Pennsylvania Synod.

Cleveland, Ohio First Hungarian 1907

When this congregation was founded Cleveland had the largest Hungarian colony in this country. Many of these Hungarians were Lutherans. Pastor Stephen Ruzsa organized these people in 1907 and began a sixteen year pastorate among them. His brother, Pastor Ladislaus Ruzsa, succeeded in 1923. It was through his leadership that the church developed into a strong congregation. In 1925 it was transferred to the Ohio Synod.

Cleveland, Ohio Teutsch 1926

This congregation was not organized when the Burgess *Memorial History* was published in 1925. Pittsburgh Synod missionary zeal provided the start for the congregation and nurtured it until 1952 when it affiliated with the Ohio Synod.

Gary, Indiana Honterus 1925

A year before the Teutsch church of Cleveland was organized the missionary enterprise of the Pittsburgh Synod reached out into Gary, Indiana, to establish Honterus Lutheran Church. In 1942 the congregation became affiliated with the Wartburg Synod.

Jewett, Ohio — St. James' — 1859

Pastor Henry Acker organized this congregation in 1859. Dr. G. H. Gerberding was pastor of this church from 1881 to 1887. It was while pastor here that Dr. Gerberding wrote *The Way of Salvation*. The congregation was connected with the Ohio Synod until 1873, when it was transferred to the Pittsburgh Synod. It returned to the Ohio Synod in 1955.

Johnstown — St. Paul's — 1889

Though organized in 1889, St. Paul's did not affiliate itself with the Pittsburgh Synod until 1903 when Pastor Rudolf Nieder was called as pastor. Pastor Herman Veith of Zion Church was responsible for the organization of the congregation. German families of Morrellville, Brownstown, and Cambria City made up the early membership. In 1952 the church united with the Central Pennsylvania Synod.

Parkersburg, W. Virginia — St. John's — 1893

Pastor Heinrich C. O. Meerwein was instrumental in starting St. John's. He came from Wheeling to Parkersburg in 1885, but no congregation was established until after his death in 1891. In its early years the church was independent of any synod, but, during the pastorate of Rev. L. O. Hammer, it was united with the Pittsburgh Synod. For a time Pastor Hammer served Red Hill, Sand Hill, and St. Clara as well as Parkersburg, but after 1905 Parkersburg alone constituted the parish. In 1935 St. John's became affiliated with the West Virginia Synod.

Salem, Ohio — Holy Trinity — 1917

Pastors C. A. Dennig, John H. Graf, and Jesse Leroy Miller were responsible for the organization of this congregation in 1917. The language question in Emmanuel Church of Salem was responsible for the formation of this new congregation. In 1924 this congregation united with a rural congregation of the Ohio Synod to form a parish. In 1925 it became officially affiliated with that synod.

Warren, Ohio — St. Paul's — 1868

Pastors of the Joint Synod of Ohio ministered to this congregation from the time of its organization to the close of the pastorate of Rev. W. L. Busch in 1908. The refusal of some of the Ohio Synod pastors to administer the sacrament to members of secret orders caused the congregation to turn to the Pittsburgh Synod. In 1908 it united with the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Council. For a time it was joined with Struthers to form a mission parish. This congregation was originally a German group and services in German continued through the pastorate of J. A. Frischkorn in 1916. After that all services were in English. In 1928 St. Paul's united with the Ohio Synod.

Disbanded Congregations

Again like members of a family congregations not only change their synodical affiliations, but they die. Population changes, urbanization and other factors make congregations that were once prosperous cease to function. Thirty eight congregations in the Pittsburgh Synod have been disbanded since 1924, according to a tabulation made by Synod President G. Lawrence Himmelman. The list is given here in alphabetical order. After the name of the disbanded congregation is given a page reference to Burgess's *Memorial History of the Pittsburgh Synod* (1925), when the congregation is listed in that volume.

1.	Annandale	Evangelical Lutheran Burgess, Page 450	1896-1933
2.	Annapolis, Ohio	St. Paul's Burgess, Page 734	1814-1933
3.	Brookville	St. John's Burgess, Page 567	1838-1948
4.	Canton, Ohio	Christ	1927-1947
5.	Coolspring	St. Paul's Burgess, Page 575	1838-1958
6.	Donegal	Good Hope Burgess, Page 519	1788-1951
7.	East Huntington Twp.	Zion Burgess, Page 659	1793-1956
8.	Ellwood City	Zion's Burgess, Page 587	1837-1953
9.	Emerickville	Grace Burgess, Page 569	1846-1958
10.	Fennelton	Evangelical Lutheran Burgess, Page 690	1860-1934
11.	Franklin Corners	St. John's Burgess, Page 499	1869-1955
12.	Frogtown	Salem Burgess, Page 476	1844-1945
13.	Germano (Jewett)	Zion's Burgess, Page 730	1805-1946
14.	Jewett	St. Bartholomew's Burgess, Page 735	1829-1952
15.	Kellersburg	Salem Burgess, Page 356	1829-1955
16.	Kellersburg	St. John's Burgess, Page 477	1846-1932

17.	Kregar (Donegal)	St. Paul's Burgess, Page 687	1852-1948
18.	Lake Lynn	Trinity Burgess, Page 529	1898-1956
19.	Latrobe	Christ Burgess, Page 716	1902-1953
20.	Licking	St. John's Burgess, Page 460	1814-1936
21.	Lillyville	St. Mark's Burgess, Page 412	1872-1957
22.	McDonald	German Burgess, Page 622	1873-1943
23.	Mercer County	Good Hope Burgess, Page 580	1805-1948
24.	Mercer County	Zion Burgess, Page 597	1853-1948
25.	Morris Cross Roads	St. John's Burgess, Page 522	1856-1948
26.	Mosiertown	Christ's Burgess, Page 768	1830-1928
27.	Moundsville, West Virginia	Zion Burgess, Page 793	1904-1928
28.	New Bethlehem	Trinity Burgess, Page 481	1905-1928
29.	New Castle	Jerusalem Burgess, Page 583	1824-1943
30.	Newmansville	Amity Burgess, Page 478	1846-1931
31.	North Washington	Evangelical Lutheran Burgess, Page 438	1842-1937
32.	Pittsburgh S. S.	Grace Burgess, Page 242	1852-1929
33.	Pittsburgh (Forbes Street)	St. John's Burgess, Page 283	1890-1954
34.	Sagamore	St. John's	1822-1955
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